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Project « Sustainable Cities » in Ghana

Support for Participatory Urban Planning

International workshops in Northern Ghana



Phase 1 (Greater Tamale)

Deliverable 4: Session book (3 teams proposals)

26 August 2026

By

Les Ateliers Internationaux de Maîtrise d'œuvre Urbaine de Cergy-Pontoise

les Ateliers
maîtrise d'œuvre urbaine

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maîtrise d'œuvre urbaine





INTERNATIONAL URBAN PLANNING WORKSHOP

JUNE 28 TO JULY 9, 2026

SHAPING GREATER TAMALE:

TOWARDS A PLANNED AND RESILIENT METROPOLIS

SESSION BOOK

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Les Ateliers thank all the partners who supported them in carrying out this session.

SHAPING GREATER TAMALE

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INTERNATIONAL URBAN PLANNING WORKSHOP
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More info: **www.ateliers.org**

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LES ATELIERS DE CERGY

A non profit-organization since 1982, *Les Ateliers Internationaux de Maitrise d'Oeuvre Urbaine de Cergy-Pontoise* (International workshops of planning and urban design from Cergy Pontoise) aims to develop the collective creation of ideas that tackle the challenges and processes of everyday city planning and design by promoting a process of collective and multidisciplinary work that produces innovative and illustrative proposals relating to urban design and spatial development.
Whether it involves students or professionals, each "atelier" brings together people of diverse nationalities and disciplines: architecture and urban planning, but also geography, economics, landscape architecture, sociology, art, engineering, environment…
Year after year, Les Ateliers de Cergy network has been growing: it includes more than two thousand former participants who are now professionals, academics, and decision-makers in the urban field.

OUR CONVICTIONS

Creating cities is by its very nature a collective process. As true as architecture enables an individual and identifiable creation of masterpieces, developing cities cannot be ascribed to a single person who would dominate all the aspects of urban creation: this process is collective in its essence.

Based on the logic of laboratory work, urban project management should encompass the various disciplines required to plan urban areas and their interfaces. Therefore, each atelier is a place of freedom of proposal, where the aspirations of collective and voluntary work enable the development of new ideas, innovative projects and proposals for the future of urban areas which are in perpetual transition.



LES ATELIERS TEAM

(from left to right)
Carole Adenka, geographer, project coordinator
Simon Brochard, geographer, director of projects
Hanaà Msallak, architect and urban designer, pilot
Rashida Shamsudeen, youth advocate, assistant pilot
Abdul-Hamid Abdulai, lecturer and researcher , assitant pilot
Craig Kensley, social investment, pilot

(not present when photo was taken)
Mohammed Musah, urban mobility consultant, assitant pilot
Véronique Valenzuela, geographer, director



Image credits: Les Ateliers
Illustrations by Les Ateliers and the workshop participants

FOREWORD

The International Urban Planning Workshop **"Shaping Greater Tamale: towards a planned and resilient metropolis"** is being launched within the framework of the **Sustainable Cities project, funded by the European Union and implemented by Expertise France through the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs (MLGCRA) of the Republic of Ghana**. The project supports six rapidly growing cities in Northern Ghana (the Greater Tamale Area - including Sagnarigu, Wa, Damongo, Nalerigu, Bolgatanga and Yendi) in advancing sustainable urban development and addressing the pressures of rapid spatial growth and climate change.

To support the operational implementation of the project's Component 2 (Integrated Urban Planning), Expertise France called upon Les Ateliers de Cergy for its unique collaborative methodology. An exploratory mission was conducted by Les Ateliers de Cergy and its partners from 1 to 10 February 2026, allowing the team to travel across Tamale, Sagnarigu, Damongo and Yendi, to meet with municipal and traditional authorities, technical departments, universities, NGOs and youth organisations, and to hold a multi-stakeholder exchange forum with local and regional institutions. This first phase identified the major urban, social and environmental issues at stake (water access, waste management, land governance, gender-responsive public space, local economic development and institutional capacity) and laid the methodological and thematic foundations of the workshop that follows.

"Shaping Greater Tamale" is the first in a series of international urban workshops that Les Ateliers de Cergy will organise across Northern Ghana as part of the Sustainable Cities project. As such, this workshop carries a dual ambition: to produce, for Greater Tamale itself, a strategic vision and actionable proposals that can feed directly into the Spatial Development Framework, Structure Plans and Local Plans currently being prepared for the metropolis; and, more broadly, to test and refine a methodology of territorial dialogue capable of being adapted to the other cities of the programme.

From 29 June to 9 July 2026, eighteen local and international professionals from a wide range of disciplines gather in Tamale for a ten-day collaborative process, following an international preparatory roundtable on the Tamale urban metabolism held on 11 June 2026. After days of immersion, site visits and stakeholder meetings, the teams of participants develop **localised strategic and innovative proposals to steer Greater Tamale**, a city shaped by everyday life, ecological systems and productive activities, **towards a resilient and planned future**.

The workshop's proposals are presented on 7 July, Restitution Day, to a panel of representatives from Greater Tamale, elected officials and experts, at the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly Hall. This moment is followed, on 8 July, by a dedicated work phase bringing together representatives of the six cities of the Sustainable Cities project. This second phase draws out the urban planning lessons of the Tamale workshop, so that its methodology, findings and pitfalls can directly inform the design of forthcoming workshops in Northern Ghana.

This session book gathers the productions of the Greater Tamale workshop and is prepared for this specific event, as a first milestone in a wider collective effort to shape the future of Northern Ghana's cities.



The Dakpema Chief's Palace in Tamale

01
FOSTERING A RESILIENT TAMALE

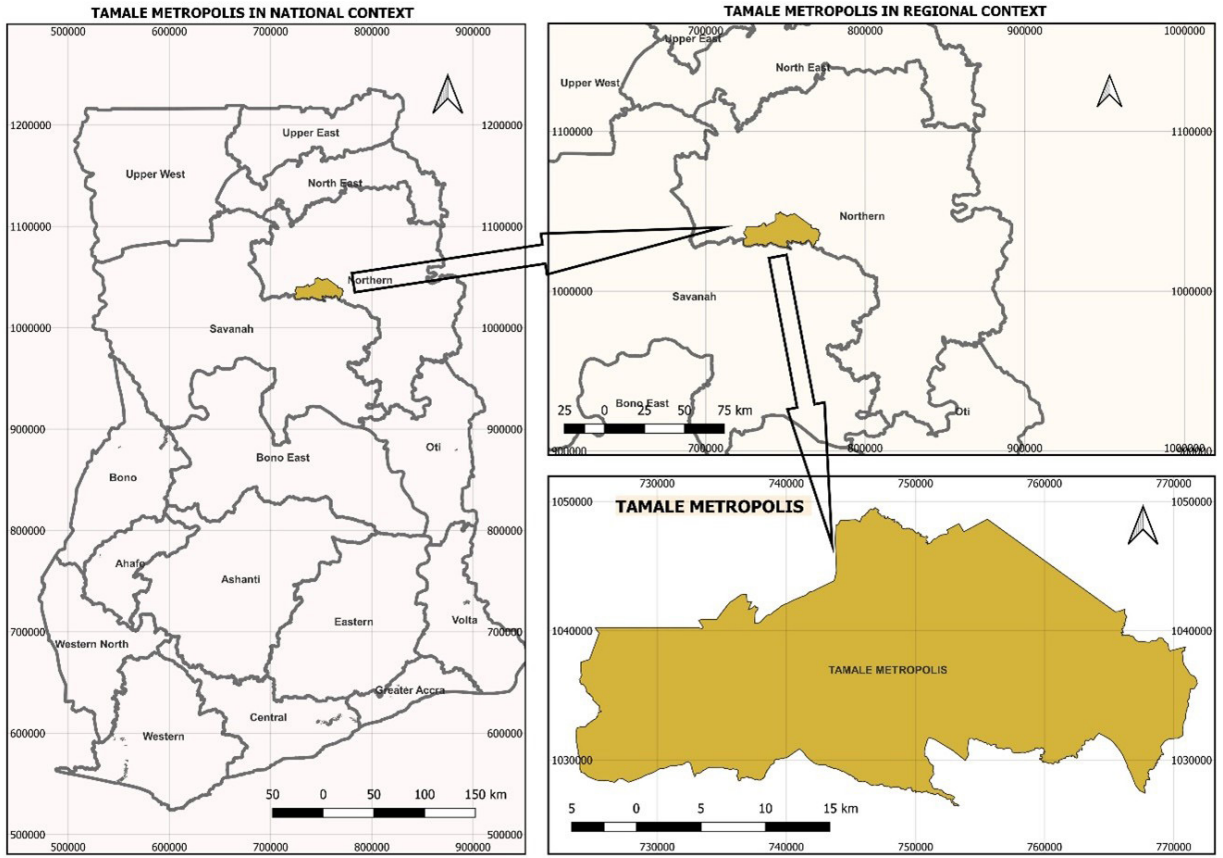


GREATER TAMALE, NORTHERN REGION, GHANA

Situated in north-central Ghana on the main Accra - Ouagadougou corridor, Greater Tamale (anchored by Tamale, the capital of the Northern Region) encompasses Tamale Metropolitan Assembly and Sagnarigu Municipal Assembly. The territory covers approximately 922 km² and had a combined population of about 716,455 in 2021.

Tamale Metropolis itself is predominantly urban, with over 80% of residents living in urban localities, while Sagnarigu retains a significant mix of peri-urban and rural communities.
Urban growth has been rapid: Tamale's urban profile reports an annual growth rate of around 3.5%, and census data indicate that the Greater Tamale population increased by more than 90% between 2010 and 2021.

Horizontal expansion has outpaced the extension of formal infrastructure and services, with a growing share of the built fabric located in Sagnarigu and peri-urban fringes beyond the original metropolitan core. As a result, population density and land-use intensity vary sharply across the 922 km², from dense inner-city neighbourhoods to lower-density subdivisions and rural settlements under conversion.
These figures on land area, population and growth rates provide a quantitative backbone for reading Greater Tamale as a fast-urbanising bioregional metropolis with significant pressures on land, services and ecological spaces.



Following the exploratory mission in February 2026, Greater Tamale is seen through geography, memory, and history, framing it as a bioregion shaped by rapid urbanisation and ecological change. It is structured around three lenses: governance and planning, economies, and climate, used to interpret how land, livelihoods, and environmental systems interact.

The analysis highlights the coexistence of customary and statutory governance, the importance of both formal and informal economic networks, and the growing pressure of climate and resource constraints. Informality is understood as a key component of territorial functioning rather than a gap.

Grounded in stakeholder dialogue, the topic promotes a collaborative approach to territorial intelligence. Nyohini is identified as a focus area to explore these dynamics and inform more adaptive and inclusive urban planning within the Sustainable Cities project.

" How can Greater Tamale grow as a territory where everyday life, ecological systems, and productive activities coexist? "



1 - GREATER TAMALE IN THE WEST SUDANIAN SAVANNA ECO-REGION

Greater Tamale's identity is rooted in the wider Sudanian eco-region, where historical trans-Sahelian trade networks, ecological systems, and customary land management have shaped settlement patterns long before colonial boundaries. Located within the West Sudanian Savannah and the Volta River Basin, the metropolitan area can be understood as a Sahelian bioregion, whose landscapes, soils, waterways, and biodiversity continue to influence urban development and livelihoods.

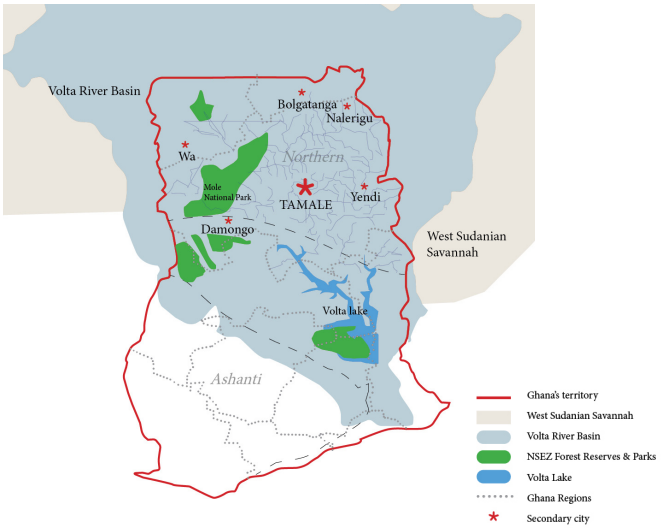
Agriculture remains central to the region's economy through agro-pastoral systems that integrate crop production and livestock. However, climate change, erratic rainfall, droughts, flooding, and rapid urban expansion are placing increasing pressure on food security, natural resources, and vulnerable communities. Strengthening climate resilience through sustainable farming, water conservation, soil protection, and the preservation of green infrastructure is therefore essential.

Greater Tamale's woodlands, wetlands, parklands, and iconic tree species form a productive and culturally significant landscape that supports biodiversity, ecosystem services, and local identity. Yet these ecological assets are increasingly threatened by urban encroachment, highlighting the need to balance metropolitan growth with environmental protection.

As northern Ghana's principal urban center and gateway to the Sahel, Tamale also plays a strategic role in regional mobility, trade, and tourism. Its cultural heritage, contemporary art institutions, natural landscapes, and surrounding heritage sites provide strong opportunities for sustainable eco-cultural tourism that can support local livelihoods while conserving environmental and cultural assets.

In the current context of metropolisation and extensive acceleration, how can Greater Tamale be approached through its unique history, geographical characteristics and natural resources?

In the current context of metropolisation and extensive acceleration, how can Greater Tamale be approached through its unique history, geographical characteristics and natural resources?



Regional map showcasing the geographical assets of Greater Tamale within the Northern Region, (Les Ateliers de Cergy, 2026)

2 - TAMALE: ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING CITY IN GHANA

Greater Tamale has evolved from a colonial administrative center into one of the country''s fastest-growing metropolitan regions. Its expansion reflects the interaction of colonial legacies, customary land governance, and long-established patterns of mobility and exchange. However, urban growth has outpaced infrastructure provision, creating significant spatial inequalities, particularly in rapidly expanding peri-urban areas where access to roads, drainage, sanitation, water, and waste management remains limited.

Beyond its administrative role, Tamale functions as the principal economic hub of northern Ghana, connecting rural production areas, secondary cities, and cross-border trade corridors. Agricultural products, livestock, biomass, and manufactured goods circulate through formal and informal regional value chains that sustain livelihoods while placing increasing pressure on natural resources and ecosystems.

Informal market networks and the caravan economy play a central role in organising the movement of goods and people across the region. These flexible systems operate through trust-based relationships and everyday logistics, forming an essential part of the city's urban metabolism. Recognising these flows as planning assets rather than informal anomalies can support more effective metropolitan development.

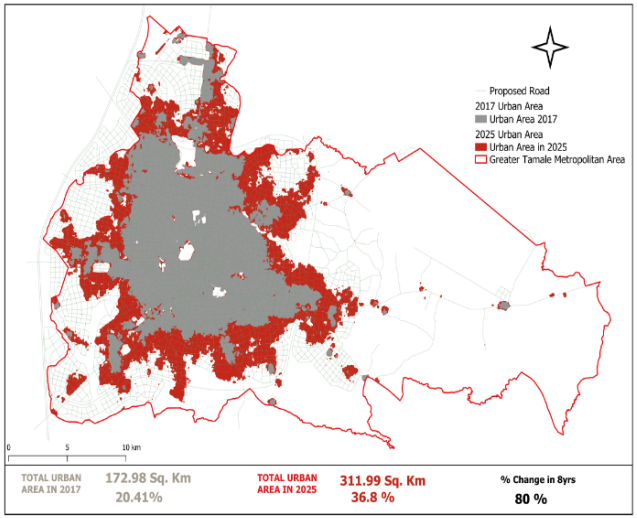
Therefore this advocates a multi-scale planning approach that integrates infrastructure, markets, logistics, productive landscapes, and informal economic systems to strengthen resilience, improve service delivery, and support sustainable regional growth.

How can Tamale's growth be shaped into a more sustainable metropolis that reduces these spatial inequalities and prioritizes the most exposed peri-urban neighbourhoods?



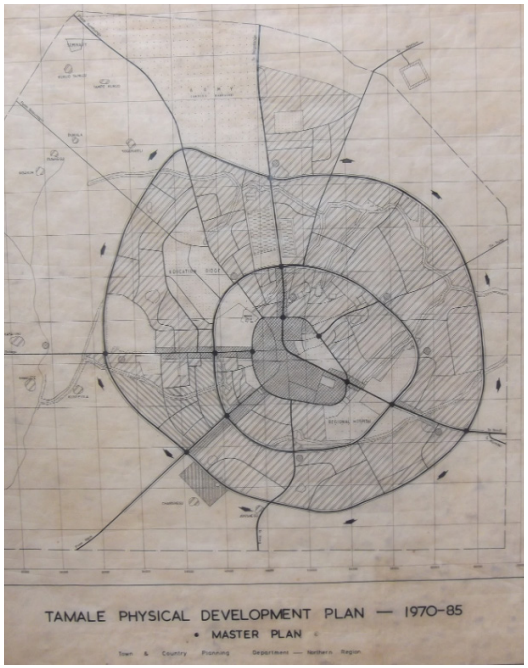






Tamale Physical growth trend extract from Ibrahim Yakubu's presentation





Master Plan of Tamale 1970-1985, extract from Ibrahim Yakubu's presentation

3 - INSTITUTIONAL MULTIPLICITY & LEGAL PLURALISM

Land governance in Greater Tamale is shaped by a hybrid system where customary authority and statutory planning coexist and continuously interact. In Dagbon and across Northern Ghana, land is traditionally held as "skin lands" under the custodianship of chiefs and tindamba (earth priests), with allocation processes rooted in lineage, negotiation, and social obligation. As a result, urban expansion is largely driven by customary decisions that precede formal surveying and registration, meaning that statutory maps often reflect already-evolved customary land practices.

Alongside this system, statutory planning under the Land Use and Spatial Planning Act 2016 establishes a structured hierarchy of Spatial Development Frameworks, Structure Plans, and Local Plans to regulate land use, infrastructure, and development. However, these instruments often overlap with ecological systems and customary territories in ways that produce fragmented and sometimes contradictory spatial outcomes.

In practice, land allocation in Greater Tamale results from continuous interaction between chiefs, families, planners, and government agencies.. Chiefs frequently initiate planning processes, while public authorities formalise or regularise developments after occupation. This creates a negotiated urban form shaped by both formal and informal systems.

The addressed topic frames this dual governance not as a constraint but as a planning asset, arguing that effective spatial planning in Greater Tamale must build on this institutional plurality. Future frameworks should integrate customary authority, statutory planning bodies, and community practices to support more inclusive, adaptive, and context-sensitive urban development.

Kasalgu Naa



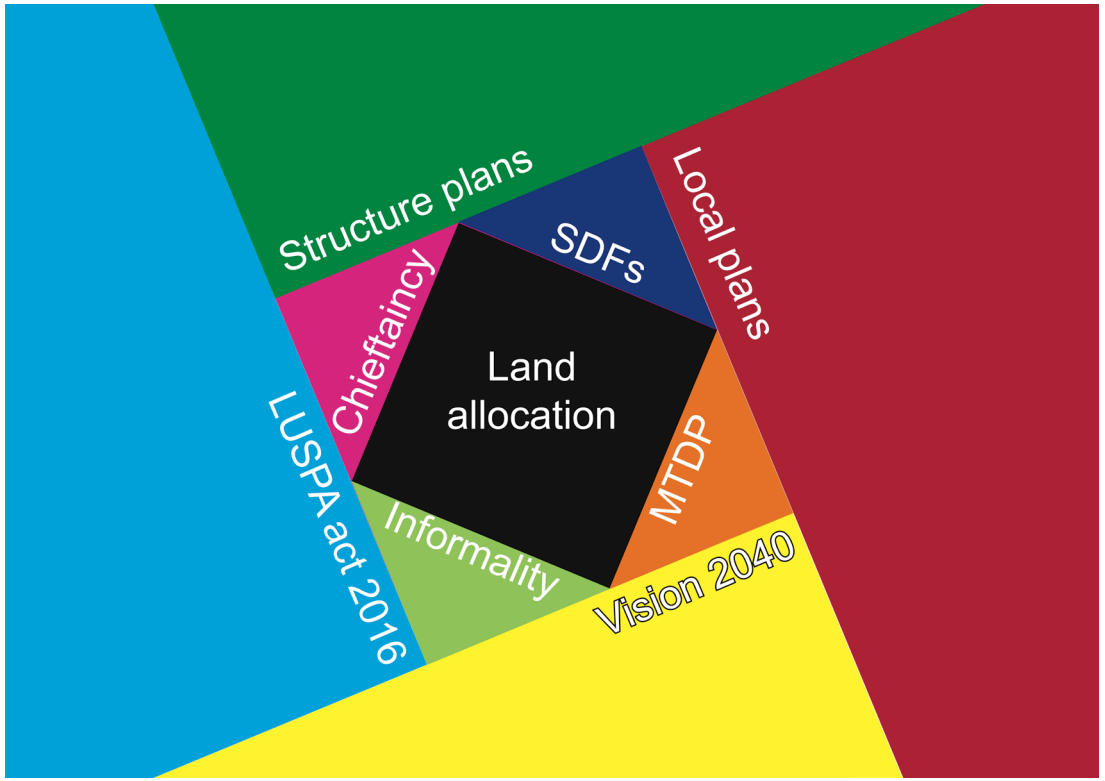
Damongo Wura



Yaa-Naa



Governance as a tangram



Nyohini Naa



4 - NYOHINI AS A FOCUS AREA FOR TAMALE & SAGNARIGU

Nyohini emerges as a key pilot and focus area within Greater Tamale where many of the region's urban dynamics converge. Located along a major peri-urban corridor, it is undergoing rapid transformation as farmland is converted into residential and mixed-use areas. Here, customary land allocation, statutory planning instruments, and infrastructure development overlap, making it a clear example of the hybrid governance and circular urban metabolism that characterise the wider metropolitan region.

At this local scale, governance is shared among chiefs and family heads, municipal authorities, and community organisations, each shaping land use, service provision, and everyday urban life. This creates a practical "laboratory" for negotiating authority and testing how formal planning tools can better align with lived realities rather than replace them.
This identifies Nyohini as a strategic site to explore integrated approaches to sanitation, water management, and waste systems, while also supporting local economic activities such as recycling, repair, and food processing. It further highlights the importance of designing inclusive public and shared spaces that respond to gender needs and everyday social practices.

Finally, Nyohini is positioned as a learning space for institutional innovation, where insights from pilot interventions can directly inform Local Plans, service delivery, and planning procedures across Greater Tamale, ensuring that planning becomes more adaptive, participatory, and grounded in everyday urban realities.



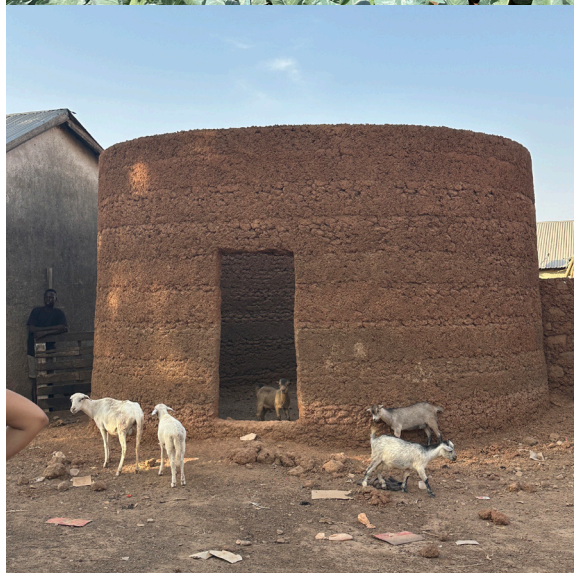




Nyohini proposed focus area

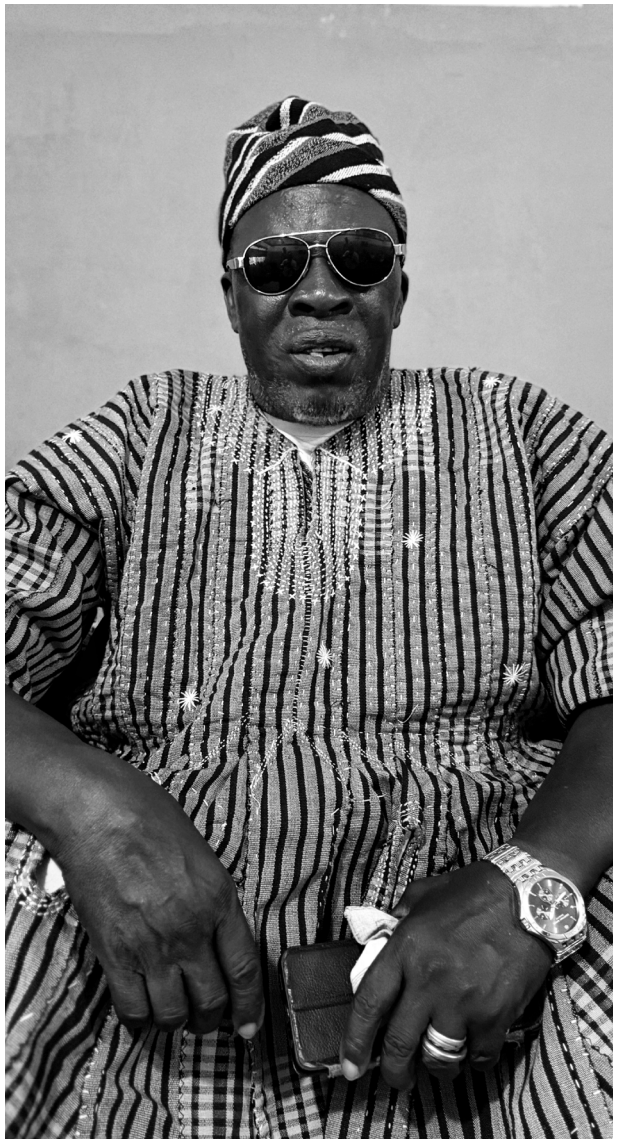












WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

Within Nyohini, a Sustainable Cities pilot could explore at least four interrelated areas:

Sanitation, water, and waste management:
How to tackle the increasing issues of sanitation, water scarcity & management and & waste collection coordination?

Local economy and jobs:
How to implement cross disciplinary frugal solutions towards local economy and sustained economic participation?

Shared spaces and gender-responsive design:
How to showcase collective shared spaces & strengthen gender responsive local identities?

Institutional learning:
How to strengthen the local building capacity towards a comprehensive planning methodology?











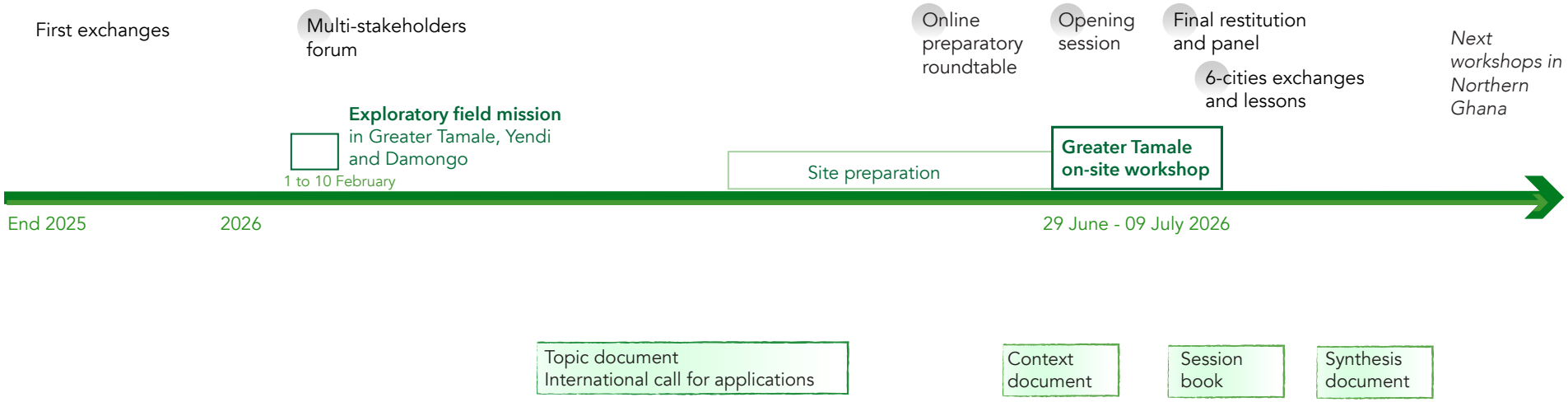
02
THE PROCESS



TIMELINE

The workshop is an extensive, collaborative process that unfolds in several phases: exploration, scientific preparation,and urban creation and innovation.

From first exchanges in 2025 to the Greater Tamale on-site workshop in June-July 2026, this process unfolds step by step: exploratory mission, multi-stakeholder forum, preparatory roundtable... before culminating in the ten-day on-site workshop from 29 June to 9 July. Along the way, each step produced its own document (topic document, context document, session book, synthesis document), building a shared body of knowledge that will, in turn, open the path to further workshops across Northern Ghana.



EXPLORATORY MISSION

1-10 FEBRUARY 2026

LES ATELIERS TEAM
Craig Kensley, Hanaà Msallak, Véronique Valenzuela, Simon Brochard, Carole Adenka

EXPERTISE FRANCE
Owusu Amponsah, Eric-Emmanuel Maasole, Diane Bittar, Jihane Rangama

In February 2026, Les Ateliers de Cergy conducted an exploratory mission in Tamale and Northern Ghana, the first field phase of a process begun in 2025. Conducted with Expertise France's team, the mission aimed to identify Tamale's major urban, social and environmental issues; meet key local stakeholders in planning, water, public space and waste; collect field data for the workshop's scientific framework; and formulate initial recommendations for study sites and themes.

Over ten days, the team travelled across Tamale, Sagnarigu, Damongo and Yendi, combining site visits with institutional meetings. Visits covered waste management in Nyoinhi, water access in Nyoinhi and Kasalgu, the Gumbihini urban farm, and several cultural places. Meetings allowed to exchange with Tamale and Sagnarigu Assemblies, the paramount chiefs of Damongo and Yendi, Ghana Water Limited, the University of Development Studies, NGOs, youth parliaments, and leaders from Yendi and Damongo.

The mission revealed a metropolis under pressure: rapid urban growth outpacing planning capacity, overlapping statutory and customary land systems, and deep interdependence between Tamale and Sagnarigu. Recurring themes emerged, such as water scarcity, uncoordinated waste collection, encroachment on agricultural land, weak municipal revenue, and strong youth engagement. Traditional authority proved central to land management, often preceding formal frameworks. These findings shaped some pillars of the workshop: water and waste, shared spaces, local economy, and institutional learning.



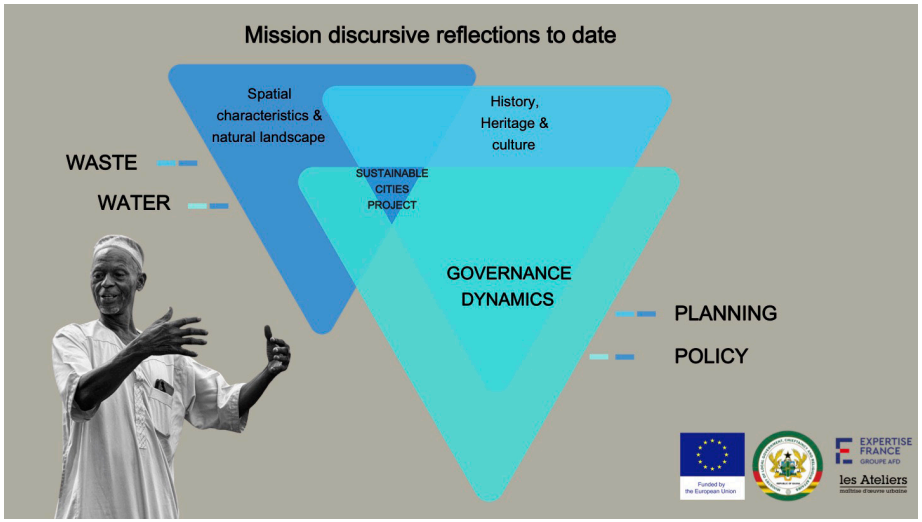
THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER EXCHANGE FORUM

5 FEBRUARY 2026

The multi-stakeholder Exchange Forum was held on 5 February 2026, gathering elected representatives, technical departments, NGOs and academics for the first official presentation of the coming workshop. After an introduction of the Sustainable Cities project, Les Ateliers presented its methodology and shared first impressions from two days of visits, offering images and keywords capturing the territory's emerging thematics through fresh, outside eyes.

The **Northern Regional Coordinating Council (Eric Arthur Ofori, Planning Officer)** and the **Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (Albert Dagbale, Planning Officer)** presented their roles and legal frameworks, while the **Tamale Metropolitan Assembly (Sadisu Sadique, Physical Planning Officer)** and **Sagnarigu Municipal Assembly (Stephan Agana, Physical Planning Officer)** shared their planning strategies and challenges. An open discussion followed and arked a first collective moment of dialogue, bringing local actors together around a shared territorial question ahead of the workshop itself.

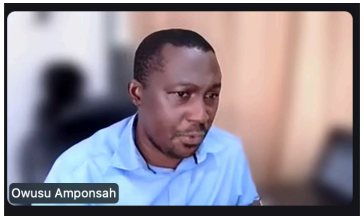






ONLINE ROUNDTABLE

THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2026 - ZOOM MEETING





Speakers:

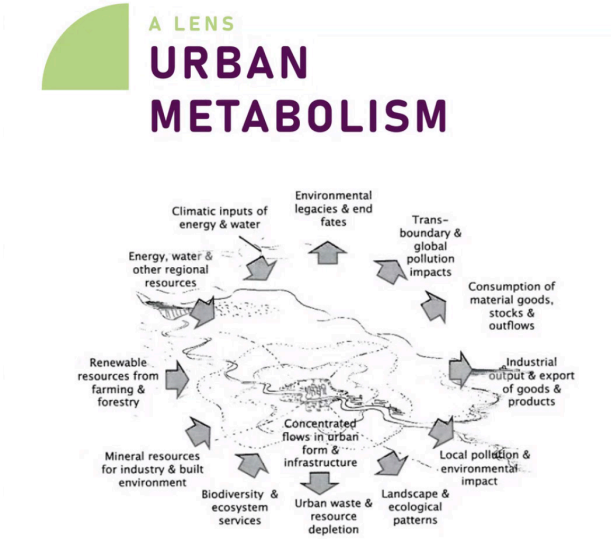
- Hanaà Msallak, architect and urban designer, workshop pilot
- Craig Kensley, social investment specialist, workshop pilot
- Paul Currie, Associate Director of the Urban Systems Unit at ICLEI Africa
- Prof. Owusu Amponsah, Associate Professor in Urban Planning at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Sustainable Cities Project Component 2 Lead.

This roundtable explored two closely related questions for Greater Tamale: how to analyse and anticipate its multi-scaled urban metabolism, and how to organise its skills eco-system, so that the city can concretely realise its ambitions.
It examined how water, waste and sanitation can be structured at a regional scale in a sustainable manner, while remaining grounded in Tamale's informal realities. It also interrogated how the city's skills ecosystem, encompassing customary and indigenous knowledge, informal and semi-formal workers, as well as professionals trained in Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and universities, can be aligned and strengthened to build and sustain the city we are planning for. Together, these perspectives aimed to shift the conversation from abstract planning towards the concrete systems and capabilities required to deliver a sustainable Greater Tamale, and beyond.

URBAN METABOLISM AS A PLANNING LENS

Paul Currie – ICLEI Africa

Opening food for thought: 300,000 motorcycle taxis move people daily across Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) yet appear in no official plan. What are Tamale's equivalent invisible flows? Urban metabolism – the flows of water, food, energy, materials and waste sustaining a city does offer a lens centred on what cities need to function rather than on administrative categories. Applied to Tamale: piped water meets ~39% of demand; electricity distribution losses reach ~70%; firewood and charcoal go unaccounted. These gaps reflect a planning culture driven by political intuition rather than systematic observation.



Extract from Paul Currie's presentation

Key insight from ICLEI's Hidden Flows project: in African cities, people are infrastructure – physically carrying water, food and waste daily. This social metabolism sustains urban life but burdens women disproportionately. Viewing metabolism as a «boundary object» means it is neutral enough for chiefs, assemblies and residents to engage around without first resolving disputes over authority. The most useful planning output may be not a spatial plan but a coordination framework built on shared metabolic commitments.

INFORMALITY AS AN ECOSYSTEM: TENSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Prof. Owusu Amponsah – KNUST

Informality is the structural norm to be mediated: 81%+ of labour is informal; 80%+ of land under customary tenure; 85%+ of housing self-built. The tricycle taxis, known as Yello Yellow in Tamale, dominate intra-city mobility yet barely feature in transport policy. Informal actors are not marginal – they are the urban economy.

Three structural tensions:

- Dual authority: chiefs' allocation notes precede and routinely override formal planning de-cisions; surveyors bypass assemblies entirely.
- Environmental pressure: 77% of farmland lost 1996–2023; urban heat island temperatures exceeding 39°C; drainage chronically choked, intensifying flooding.
- Revenue deficits: informal economy lies outside the formal tax base, leaving assemblies under-resourced to address the challenges informal growth creates.

Opportunities exist: agri-business base (shea, rice, livestock); resident willingness to invest in-crementally in self-build; mobile finance as a formalisation pathway; growing creative economy.



Extract from Owusu Amponsah's presentation

FIELD VISITS

DAY 1: MONDAY, 29 JUNE, 2026

METROPOLITAN TOUR: URBAN GROWTH, LAND AND STRATEGIC VISION

This day afforded participants the opportunity to explore more about Greater Tamale, taking into consideration the boundaries of Tamale. The participants, team, and other officials travelled by bus to various relevant destinations across the Greater Tamale Metropolitan Area.
We were pleased to have in our midst Prof. Owusu Amponsah, the Component 2 lead for the Sustainable Cities project.

PROGRAMME

08:30am, Tugu Yapala
The team was welcomed by Yakubu Yahaya, the representative of the assembly member for Tugu electoral area who doubled as a unit committee member. There were positive exchanges with participants especially in the area of water, sanitation, housing and agricultural activities.

10:00am, Gbalahi Waste fill site
Participants and other team members were officially welcomed by Kamil Nashiru, the Solid Waste Manager. A brief presentation regarding the operations of the facility and the accompanied challenges were presented, and the participants were excited for such an insightful presentation.
The team later proceeded to the liquid waste management facility within the same location, and were received by Stephen Nuamah, a Technical Officer at the facility. A brief presentation and exchanges allowed us to consider the operations and challenges of the facility.

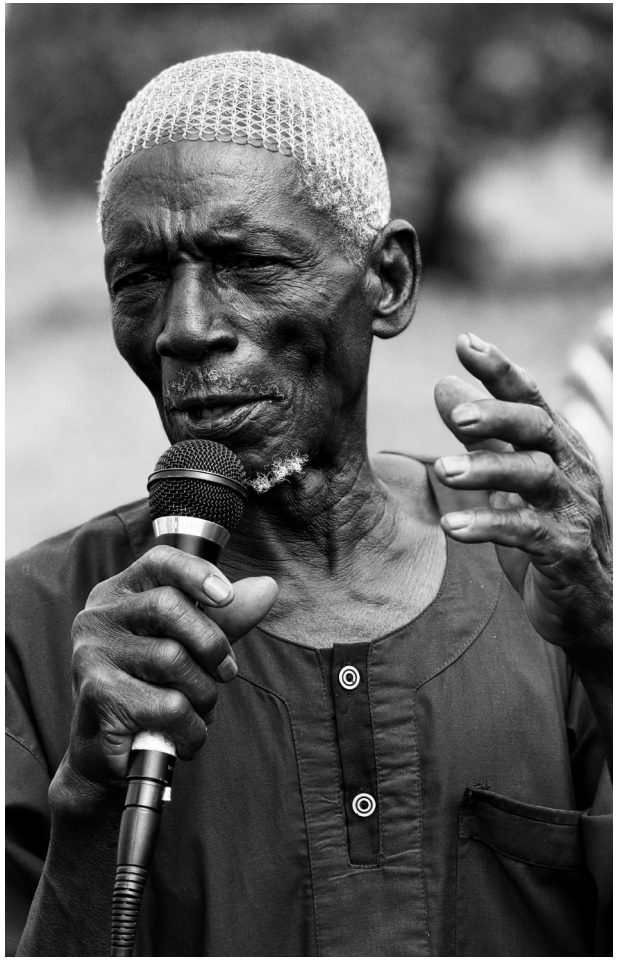
11:30am, Tamale Forest Reserve
The team was welcomed by the Regional Forest Service Division Manager, Kwesi Frimpong who expressed his commitment towards this workshop. Together with the district officer for the Tamale Forest District, Mohammed Abubakari Sadik, a visit was made to the Tamale Forest Reserve to appreciate the current state of the forest.

02:10pm, Gumbihini Old Dam
The team was welcomed by Alhassan Salman, the secretary to the farmers' association engaged in the cultivation of vegetables in the area. Several challenges were highlighted especially in relation to land tenure, water availability and encroachments.

03:20pm, Kasalgu Dam
Upon welcoming the participants to the Kasalgu community, the assembly member for the area, Hon. Shamsudeen took the team to the Kasalgu chief palace to pay homage and also inform him about the mission of the group. This ended with a procession to the Kasalgu dam, the major source of water for the community.

04:30pm, Central Market
Tamale central market is one of the biggest markets in the Greater Tamale area, hence participants, with the help of the victory electoral area assemblyman, Hon. Kailan visited this important facility. There were fruitful discussions among participants regarding the operations, challenges and potentials of the market.

05:30pm, Savanna Center for Contemporary Art (SCCA)
The first day visits ended at the Savanna Center for Contemporary Art (SCCA), a artist-run project space, exhibition and research hub established by the renowned artisan, Ibrahim Mahama.



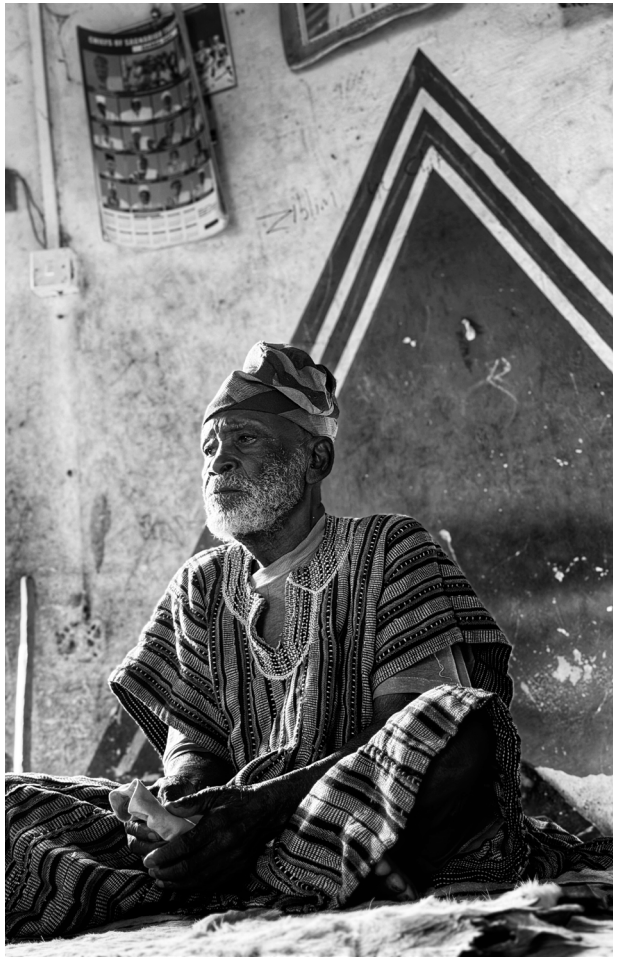
Takubu Yahaya, representative of the assembly member for Tugu electoral area

Visit to Tuguyapala



Visit to Tamale Forest Reserve





Kasalgu Naa



Kasalgu Dam



Tour to Tamale Central Market



Visit to Savanna Center for Contempory Art (SCCA)

Visit to Nyohini Astro Turf





A Zoomlion container skip

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 01 JULY, 2026
NYOHINI: WATER, WASTE AND COMMUNITY LIFE

The morning was devoted to an in-depth visit of the Nyohini neighbourhood, one of the most instructive examples of the challenges facing peri-urban communities in Greater Tamale.

PROGRAMME

08:00 am, Nyohini Chief's Palace

With the help of the two assembly members for both Nyohini South and North, the team paid a courtesy call on the chief of Nyohini to inform him about the intention to tour some parts of his area. This was met with an interactive session which led to a question-and-answer session between the chief and the participants. In the end, the chief expressed his support for the workshop and however challenged the group to help with innovative ideas that will ensure the socio-economic transformation of the Nyohini and Greater Tamale at large.

09:15am, Old Airport

The team undertook a familiarization visit to the Nyohini Old Airport, one of the oldest aviation sites in the Northern Region of Ghana. The site is of considerable historical significance, as it originally served as the first airstrip in Tamale during the colonial period. Historical records indicate that the landing strip was established at Nyohini in December 1940 to support military operations during the Second World War before aviation activities were later transferred to the present-day Tamale International Airport.

10:00am, SIC Lands

The team also visited the Nyohini SIC Lands, an important open space within the Greater Tamale Metropolitan Area that has traditionally supported urban agriculture. The visit provided an opportunity to

observe ongoing farming activities, the condition of the surrounding environment, and the sanitation situation within the area.
During the tour, participants interacted with locals and observed the cultivation of some food crops like maize, highlighting the contribution of the site to household livelihoods, food security, and income generation.

10:45am, Nyohini Children's Home
The team also paid a familiarization visit to the Nyohini Children's Home, a social welfare institution dedicated to providing care, protection, and support for vulnerable and orphaned children within the Tamale Metropolitan Area. The visit offered members of the team an opportunity to gain firsthand insight into the operations of the facility, the services it provides, and its contribution to child welfare and community development. During the tour, the team was introduced to the history and mandate of the home, as well as its daily activities, including the provision of shelter, nutrition, healthcare, education, psychosocial support, and life-skills development for resident children.

11:15am, Nyohini Astro Turf and some Waste Disposal Sites
The team also visited the Nyohini Astro Turf and selected waste disposal sites within the Nyohini community as part of the familiarization tour. The visit provided an opportunity to examine key public infrastructure that contributes to recreation, environmental sanitation, and the overall quality of urban life in the Greater Tamale Metropolitan Area.
At the Nyohini Astro Turf, the team observed a modern community sports facility that is to serve as an important venue for football, physical recreation, and youth development. The facility "when completed" will provide a safe and accessible space for sporting activities, community events, and social interaction, thereby promoting healthy lifestyles and social cohesion among residents.

11:55am 'Nkrumah Voli' – A Tourist center at the hub of Tamale
The team also visited Nkrumah Voli, a unique cultural and tourist destination in Tamale that has become an important centre for heritage preservation, contemporary art, and historical reflection. The site, whose name translates to "Nkrumah's Hole," occupies a repurposed grain silo originally constructed during the administration of Ghana's first President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, as part of a national agricultural modernization programme. Following the abandonment of the project after the 1966 **coup d'état**, the facility remained unused for decades before being transformed into a cultural and educational space.
During the familiarization tour, the team explored the site's architectural features and learned about its transformation into a centre for exhibitions, research, learning, and community engagement. Established as an extension of the Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art (SCCA) by renowned Ghanaian artist Ibrahim Mahama, Nkrumah Voli serves as a platform for preserving archaeological memories, promoting ecological thinking, and encouraging critical dialogue on Ghana's history, culture, and future development. The adaptive reuse of the abandoned industrial structure demonstrates how neglected urban infrastructure can be revitalized into vibrant public spaces that support education, tourism, and creative industries.
The visit enabled the team to appreciate the site's significance as both a cultural landmark and a growing tourist attraction within Tamale. Beyond showcasing contemporary art and historical artefacts, Nkrumah Voli contributes to cultural tourism by attracting researchers, artists, students, and visitors from Ghana and abroad. The centre illustrates how heritage conservation and creative innovation can be integrated to preserve historical identity while promoting sustainable urban and cultural development. The familiarization tour reinforced the importance of investing in heritage sites that celebrate local history, stimulate tourism, and strengthen community engagement within the Greater Tamale Metropolitan Area.

Visit to the Old Airport



Visit to Nyohini Naa



OPENING SESSION

TUESDAY, 30 JUNE, 2026
SAGNARIGU ASSEMBLY HALL

The opening session was the opportunity for local stakeholders to share their challenges and expectations in relation with the workshop, and this was facilitated by **Abdul-Hamid Toyibu, the Sagnarigu Physical Planning Officer**. The ceremony was opened by the **Coordinating Director for the Sagnarigu municipality, Mahamud M. Osman**, who welcomed participants on behalf of the Municipal Chief Executive. A keynote address from the the Honorable Northern Regional Minister was delivered on his behalf by the **Regional Economic Planning Officer, Isaac Mwangu**.

An introductory remark was given by the **Director of Les Ateliers, Veronique Valenzuela**. **Owusu Amponsah (Component 2 Lead)** gave a project overview together with a focus of component 2 and **Olivier Donnet (Director of Projects, Expertise France)** closed with some remarks. This was followed by a presentation of the topic by the session co-pilots, **Craig Kensley and Hanaà Msallak**. There was also a brief lecture by the **Head of Department for Planning and Land Administration, University for Development Studies, Ibrahim Yakubu** on 'The history of urban planning in Greater Tamale'. This was insightful especially to participants who at the end appreciated the challenges of urban planning from the colonial era till date.



Participants to the opening session in Sagnarigu Assembly Hall


Sagnarigu Naa Representative



Mahamud M. Osman


Isaac Mwangu, Regional Economic Planning Officer


Véronique Valenzuela, director of Les Ateliers


Olivier Donnet, director of projects Expertise France


Eric, a workshop participant

EXCHANGE FORUM

FRIDAY, 3 JULY, 2026

The first collective exchange showed that the teams had begun to converge around a serious and productive reading of Greater Tamale as a fast-growing metropolitan territory shaped by ecological stress, informal urbanisation, fragmented governance, and everyday systems that remained only partially visible to formal planning.

Across the three groups, the most important contribution was not a finished proposal but an emerging set of unifying concepts that connected urban design, planning, infrastructure, economy, and social organisation to spatially grounded development questions.

The value of these presentations lay in how they surfaced provocations for Tamale and Sagnarigu and for the wider Sustainable Cities Project: what planning needed to learn to see, which local systems could anchor resilience, and how design propositions might be translated into cross-city planning practice.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY & UNIVERSAL REFLECTION ACROSS GROUPS

A deliberate feature of the methodology is to invite participants to see more than existing plans can yet accommodate, so that future statutory work has richer material to draw on. Identity and collectivism were treated as shared assets, in communal life, cooperatives, religious and traditional institutions, and the next phase now had the opportunity to deepen this by exploring how these same resources can support more inclusive, negotiated forms of planning, free of the assumption that they are either perfect or fixed.
In this sense, the urban metabolism lens and the workshop format together created a constructive tension between systemic reading and project delivery.

ASSESSMENT OF THE FIRST EXCHANGE

As a first framing, the exchange was productive and credible. The groups demonstrated that they had begun to engage with the workshop materials, site visits, and stakeholder encounters, and they were able to identify distinct but overlapping strategic entry points into the complexity of Greater Tamale.
The quality of the exchange lies mainly in the emergence of conceptual direction. The teams have not yet produced mature planning propositions, but they have started to construct ideas that could evolve into them. This is a legitimate output for this stage of the process.
The firmer critique is that the work still leans too heavily on framing language and not enough on disciplined synthesis. In several cases, evidence is partial, causal pathways are implied rather than demonstrated, the scale of intervention is unstable, and the route from concept to pilot remains unclear.







EARLY WORKSHOP TERRITORIAL GRAMMAR

The workshop was framed as territorial dialogue within the Sustainable Cities project, translating insights on governance, economies and ecological systems into planning perspectives for Greater Tamale and the wider network of cities.

The post-immersion reflection captured the first language participants used to make sense of what they encountered.



EMERGING TERRITORIAL GRAMMAR

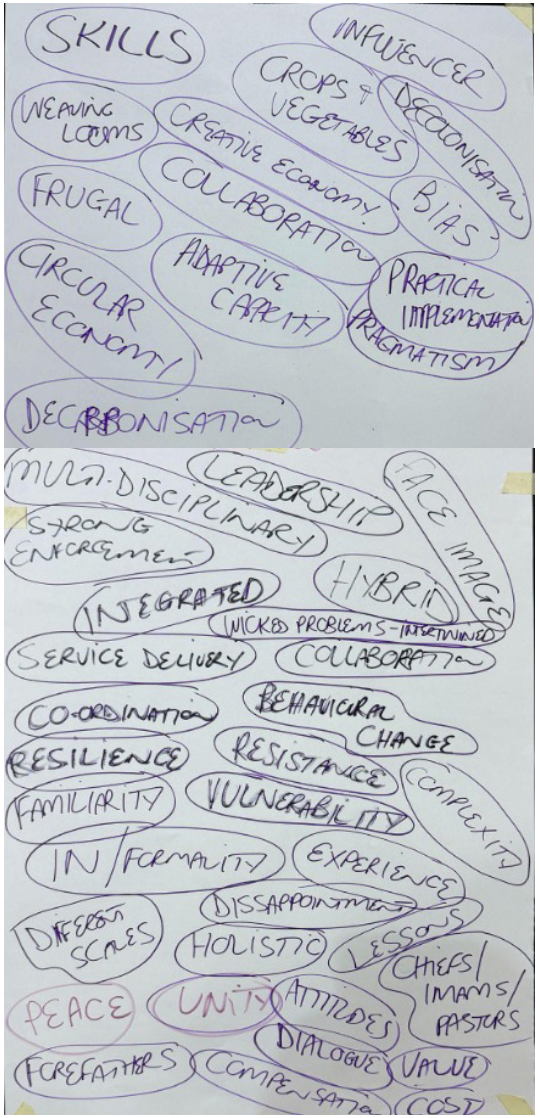
Keywords around "multi-disciplinary", "leadership", "hybrid", "integrated", "coordination", "service delivery" and "collaboration" suggest an intuitive reading of Greater Tamale as a system of dispersed, layered mandates rather than a neatly aligned governance architecture. Terms like "complexity", "wicked problems", "different scales", "(in)formality", "resilience" and "vulnerability" , "intertwined" show participants grappling with metropolitan expansion, peri-urban fragility and ecological stressors simultaneously, and recognising that any credible reflection must hold formal plans, informal practices, city-wide pressures and neighbourhood coping strategies together.

BEHAVIOURAL AND RELATIONAL DIMENSIONS

Words such as "resistance", "attitudes", "disappointment", "experience" and "behavioural change" indicate a shift beyond infrastructure and statutory documents towards how interventions are received and how these responses enable or block change.
References to "forefathers", "peace", "unity", "dialogue" and "chiefs/imams/pastors" underline the strength of the social and symbolic architecture of authority in shaping what is possible in Greater Tamale.

SKILLS, ECONOMIES AND FRUGALITY AS ASSETS

Attention to "skills", "weaving looms", "crops & vegetables", "creative economy", "collaboration", "adaptive capacity", "frugal", "circular economy" and "decarbonisation" aligns with the workshop's concern for local economies, jobs and climate-responsive urban development.
The group is noticing not only deficits and vulnerabilities, but also existing know-how, productive practices and innovations that already navigate material constraints and environmental pressures.



03 TEAM PROPOSALS





TEAM A

KOM



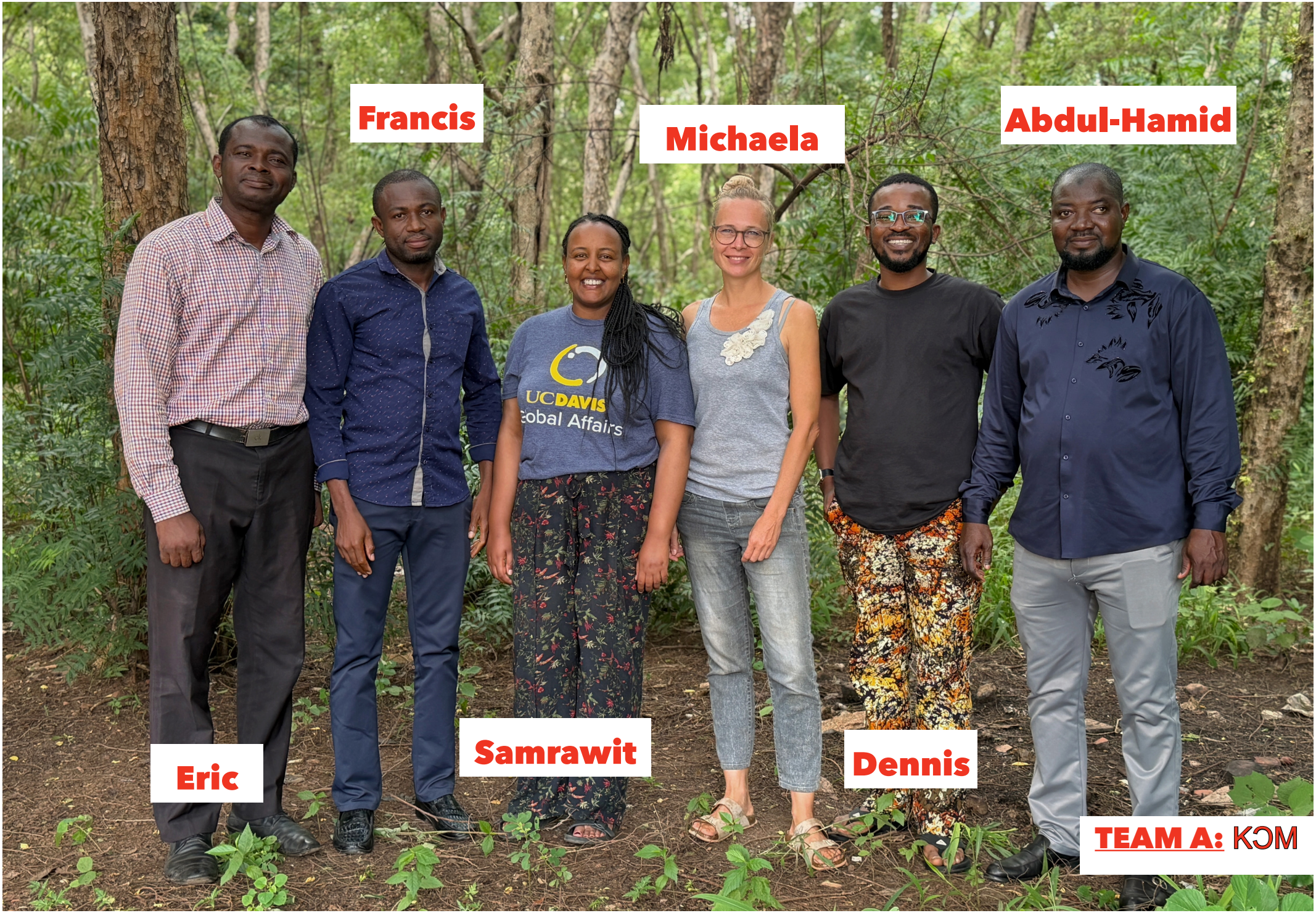
TEAM B

THE MOSAIC CITY



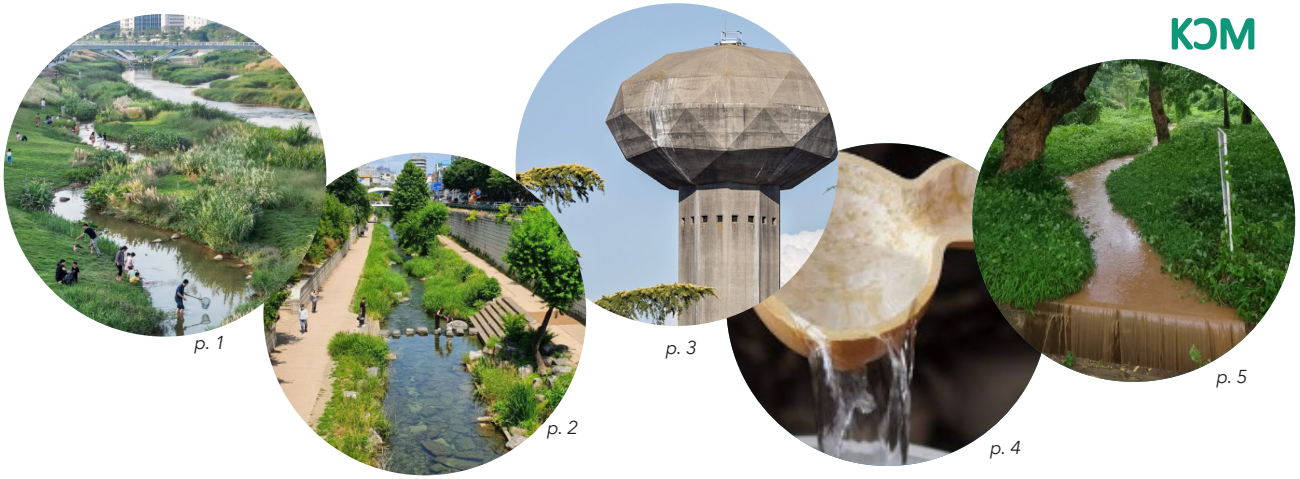
TEAM C

NEXT LEVEL TAMALE


Francis
Michaela
Abdul-Hamid
UCDAVIS
Eric
Samrawit
Dennis
TEAM A: KƆM

TAMALE, ON THE STREAM OF TOMORROW

The IDENTITY as a tool to make the life water FLOW



My mum says there is not enough water, and she has to go far to fetch it. But when the storm comes, we are flooded. Why is it missing in some places and too much in others? It takes away people's houses and families. I think it would be great if **evebody had enough of water**

Timtoni, schoolboy 5 years old in 2026



WATER SENSITIVE CITY

WATER is LIFE

Water defines community well-being, economic progress, spiritual beliefs and environmental balance. Water and identity are deeply intertwined, shaping personal, cultural, and national self-images.

Personal and social identities play a massive role in sustainability and regeneration. Individuals who possess a strong "environmental consciousness" are much more likely to adopt habitual, voluntary water sensitive behaviors.

WATER is IDENTITY

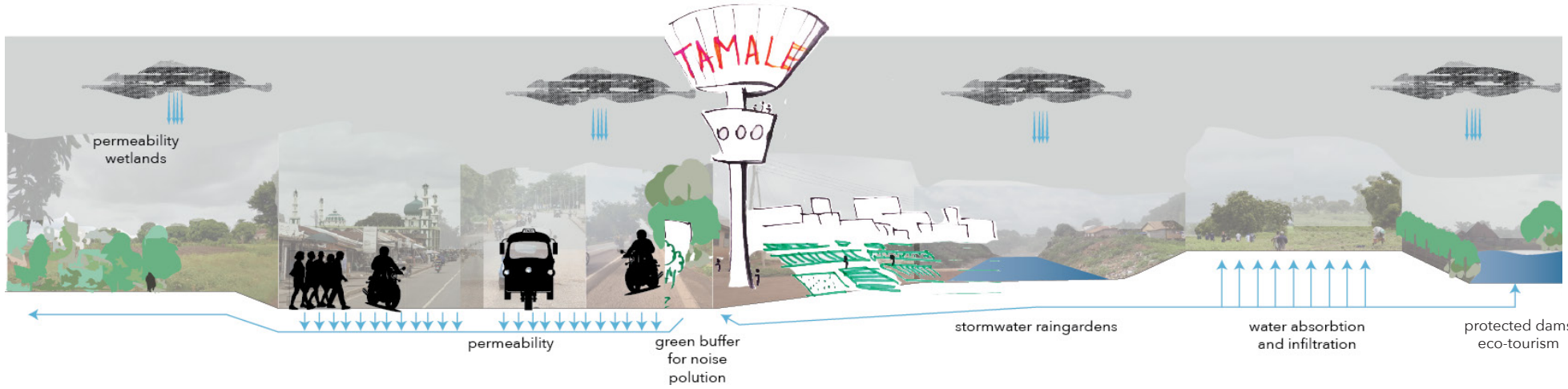
Attractivity and Actionability: Communities that build a positive, attractive culture draw people in and encourage them to internalize the group's goals as their own. This collective pride builds resilience and turns passive participants into active advocates.



IDENTITY is LIFE

A sense of belonging, coupled with personal and collective pride, forms one of the most powerful intrinsic motivators in human behavior. When people feel genuinely valued and proud of their community, organization, or identity, they naturally make more effort, collaborate better, and stay committed.

p.1 Ecological restoration of the Maozhou River in Shenzhen, designed by EADG to integrate nature into an urban landscape
p. 2 The Cheonggyecheon Stream, a 10.9 km ecological urban park located in the center of Seoul. This urban renewal project replaced an old concrete highway with a vibrant green corridor.
p. 3 Watertower of l'hôpital Marchant, Pierre Debeaux architecte © 1963
p. 4 Calebasse of Water
p. 5 Tamale Nobisco Forest during rainy afternoon, july 2026



WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN

Greater Tamale is a thirsty city, characterised by intermittent water scarcity, erratic flow of water, and uneven coverage of the network. Addressing these challenges requires transitioning the city from the conventional city design more towards water-sensitive urban design (WSUD).

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) is an urban planning and engineering model that emphasises conscious integration of the city's water cycle – such as wastewater, stormwater, and rainwater – into the city's waterscape. This model requires expanding urban design beyond conventional, piped-borne water supply towards an integrated, nature-based water cycle.

WSUD offers the potential to transform Greater Tamale into a "Water Sensitive City" (WSC). It regards cities as sources of urban water scarcity challenges as well as sites for solutions towards addressing water scarcity challenges. WSUD does so, often by leveraging urban planning strategies and nature-based solutions such as stormwater, groundwater extraction and distribution, rainwater harvesting, wetlands/green urban enclave, small-dam regeneration, eco-dams, etc. The WSUD model helps redefine the relationship between the city, residents, grey and green infrastructure.

Today, at school,
we have learnt about
blue-green infrastructure
and one of the concept called
the "**slow it, spread it, sink it" strategy**
which is a sustainable stormwater and
rainwater management approach. Instead
of letting rain rapidly run off hard surfaces
or be channelled and cause flooding or
erosion somewhere, this method uses
design features to slow the water down
distribute it across the landscape
and urbanscape and allow it
to be useful to the ground.

Tipaya, schoolgirl
10 years old in 2026



Water sensitive Tamale Challenges

Rising population, climate change, limited surface water, sand-winning activities reducing surface water, non-revenue water/illegal connections, uneven coverage of pipe networks, and limited groundwater tables for extraction all these resulting in residential water demand exceeding production capacity (prod. about 35,000 - 38,000 cubic metres vis-à-vis demand of 90,000 - 95,000 cubic meters).

In Tamale while transitioning to water sensitivity to combat climate shocks, the most critical secondary impacts might involve **deep socio-spatial inequities and public health crises**. Interventions, like green-blue infrastructure, can unintentionally trigger urban displacement and worsen vector-borne disease risks in under-serviced informal settlements.



Tamale impropre waste management as a major challenge for WSC

In Tamale contexts, the secondary and unintended consequences of proposed interventions present specific challenges:

1. Socio-Spatial Inequity and "Green Gentrification"
When water-sensitive designs—like constructed wetlands, green roofs, and landscaped retention ponds—are introduced, they improve local environmental conditions and property values. Upgrading previously disinvested neighborhoods with premium blue-green infrastructure prices out low-income residents, creating a divided landscape where formal areas gain resilient, liveable amenities while highly dense informal settlements might remain neglected and poorly serviced.

2. Unintended Public Health Complications
Water-sensitive designs rely heavily on capturing and storing water, as well as creating localized open water bodies. In many tropical and subtropical African cities, stagnant water catchments or poorly maintained biofiltration swales inadvertently become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease vectors, exacerbating risks of malaria and dengue fever. Furthermore, unmonitored household rainwater harvesting can lead to contamination if local authority capabilities for water quality treatment collapse.

3. Economic Disruption from Maladaptation
Failing to include marginalized communities in the design of local water systems undermines local trust. If these nature-based systems fail or become polluted, vulnerable communities lose their secondary survival resources, such as subsistence agriculture or local irrigation, deepening food and economic insecurity.



Sunrise in Nobisco Forest

There has been so much pressure on me in recent days, both at school and at home. My family certainly wants the best for me, and I also dream of studying at university, though it is not always easy. I love spending time under the trees next to the dam in Nyohini. Being in nature definitely helps me calm my negative thoughts, and its cooling effect brings me peace.
I hope to study in the new Department of Environmental Studies so I can contribute to preserving nature in Tamale.

Timtoni, schoolboy
11 years old in 2032



PERSONAL WELL-BEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Water features profoundly impact psychological and emotional balance. The aesthetic value of nature , in particularity water appeals to an individual's sense of peace, connecting to life satisfaction and happiness

INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES AND FORWARD-LOOKING ACTIONS

WATER+ INTERVENTIONS

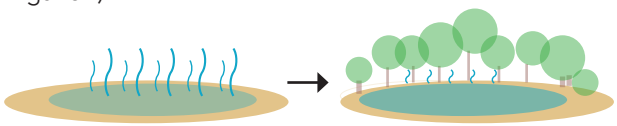
RAINWATER HARVESTING
- collecting, filtering, and storing rainwater from surfaces like rooftops or ground catchments for reuse + filtering to potable water

STORMWATER HARVESTING
- a city scale intervention system comprising catchment area, conveyance channels, first-flush diverters, filtration units, water ponds and a distribution system.

SPONGE CITY
> bioswales and rain gardens forming depressed, vegetated channels along roadsides that act as a natural drainage system.
> permeable pavement: Installing porous asphalt, interlocking pavers, or grid systems allows water to pass through the surface into the soil below, preventing

OFF-GRID WATER SYSTEMS /SMALL-TOWN WATER SYSTEMS
- drilling, mechanisation, metering, pumping, and gravity distribution of pipe water to residents via PVC pipes and groundwater reservoirs.
Complementary provision for standpipes, operated & maintained by GWCL, in areas with high groundwater table to augment the utility water supply

SMALL DAMS (DUGOUTS, WETLANDS)
- plant trees to protect the surface from direct sun and fast evaporation (potential of recreation, tourism and irrigation)



i. 1

WATER+ ACTIONS

FILTRATION AND PURIFICATION
source protection from waste (dugout, retetion pond), sedimentation, filtration, disinfection and safe storage
rapid sand filters, biosand filters, ceramic pot filtres
innovation in personnal straw filtres
water purification tablets using chlorine, chlorine dioxide, or silver to chemically neutralize bacteria
moringa seed as a coagulant

UV SOLAR DISINFECTION
at the household and community level

DIGITAL APP FOR WATER USE - A simple app that can be used for early warning, report illegal water connection, blocked gutter, illegal dumping in the gutters…etc



p. 1

WATER+ POTENTIALS

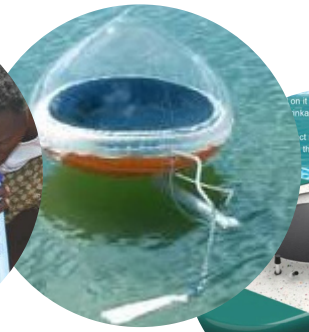
WATERFLOW, WATER AS A TRANSPORT VECTOR
Water is nature's universal transport medium, enabling the movement of nutrients, wastes, and chemical signals in all living environments on micro and macroscale.
- opprotunity for packages transportation on major water streams within rain season (ex.: autonomous container barges: the River Drone utilizes semi-autonomous and digitally connected convoys to haul containers along inland waterways, relieving traffic congestion and bypassing traditional road constraints.)

MICRO ELECTRICAL PLANTS on seasonal water streams

COOLING RESERVOIRS OF HARVESTED WATER
under buildings – residential and also multistorey buildings (combined with windtowers to enhance passive low-tech cooling)



p. 2



p. 3



p. 4

i. 1 - dam evaporation protection
p. 1 - offgrid water system - Ghana
p.2 - personnal filtration drinking straws
p.3 - floating energyfree pods Aquamate
p.4 - Water Pods - autonomous floating devices

Water harvesting collecting culture
Bioswales & Rain Gardens
Green belts plantation around small dams
Strategic establishment of off-grid water infrastructure
Digital App for water
Involvement of young people and leaders
Promotion of women led operations of standpipes

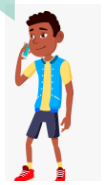
today

2029

Each household has access to potable water via water harvesting and tap
Floods are slowdown and road-sides acts as a natural drainage system
Small dams are used for recreational purposes
Water theft is at 0%, early warning works
Young people actively work to conserve water

I am so happy–I got admission to do an internship at the Incubator of Purification Water during these school holidays, before I enter the Technical College within the University's Department of Environmental Studies. They are launching prototypes of micro-purification stations for households.
We will distribute them and help introduce them into homes.

Timtoni, schoolboy
17 years old in 2038



Increased water security
Zero flood city
Small dams used for Eco-tourism
Water utility revenue increases
Young people become actors and partners of water utility

2039

2049

Tamale is a green and water secured city
Tamale is free of water born disease
Extreme temperature is curbed signicantly
Tamale is water sensitive city

I am happy to be back in Tamale. After practicing architecture across Ghana and West Africa, I prefer to raise my children here, where it is safe and healthy. I have always felt that the community and sense of collectivism will keep my kids safe, and it is a better environment to set up a business.

Tipaya, architect
43 years old in 2059



A healthy city - an environment that continually improves its physical and social infrastructure

2059

WATER HARVESTING

Urban ecology and population tend to amplify the stress of water scarcity. However, they also hold promising possibilities for ameliorating urban environmental-related challenges like water scarcity and stress in cities. For Greater Tamale, characterized by water scarcity and stress, rainwater can be harvested and utilized optimally.

Typical systems consist of a catchment area, conveyance pipes, first-flush diverters, filtration units, and a storage tank.

Key Techniques and System Components
- **Surface/Rooftop Catchment**: Materials like metal or concrete tiles yield the cleanest, highest-quality water.
- **Gutters and Downspouts + First-Flush Diverters**: runoff typically carries accumulated dust, pollen, bird droppings, and roof debris.
- **Filtration and Debris Removal**: Leaf screens and mesh sieves prevent larger debris from entering the system. Finer filters (like charcoal or sand) polish the water before it reaches the storage tank.
- **Storage Tanks**: above-ground (e.g., poly barrels, metal cisterns) or below-ground (e.g., concrete tanks). They should be fully sealed and opaque to prevent mosquito breeding and algae growth.
- **Distribution System**: A pump and pressure tank or a gravity-fed header tank is used to deliver the water to its point of use, which often involves a secondary filtration and UV purification stage if destined for potable use.



p. 1



p. 2



p. 3



p. 4



p. 5

SPONGE CITY

In Tamale, where seasonal floods and perennial water shortages alternate, combining rainwater harvesting and sponge city concepts is a highly effective way to manage excess water. This trapped extra water mitigates flooding during the rainy season and serves as a reliable, cost-effective backup during the dry season, as well as it creates better conditions for local rice production.

Storm Water Retention: Using sponge-city principles like constructing small retention ponds ensures there is sufficient water for the dry season. The soil is rich, clay-loamy with high water retention.

Flood Mitigation: Excess rainwater stored in agricultural swales and retention ponds can be recycled for irrigation, easing pressure on piped water networks and boreholes.

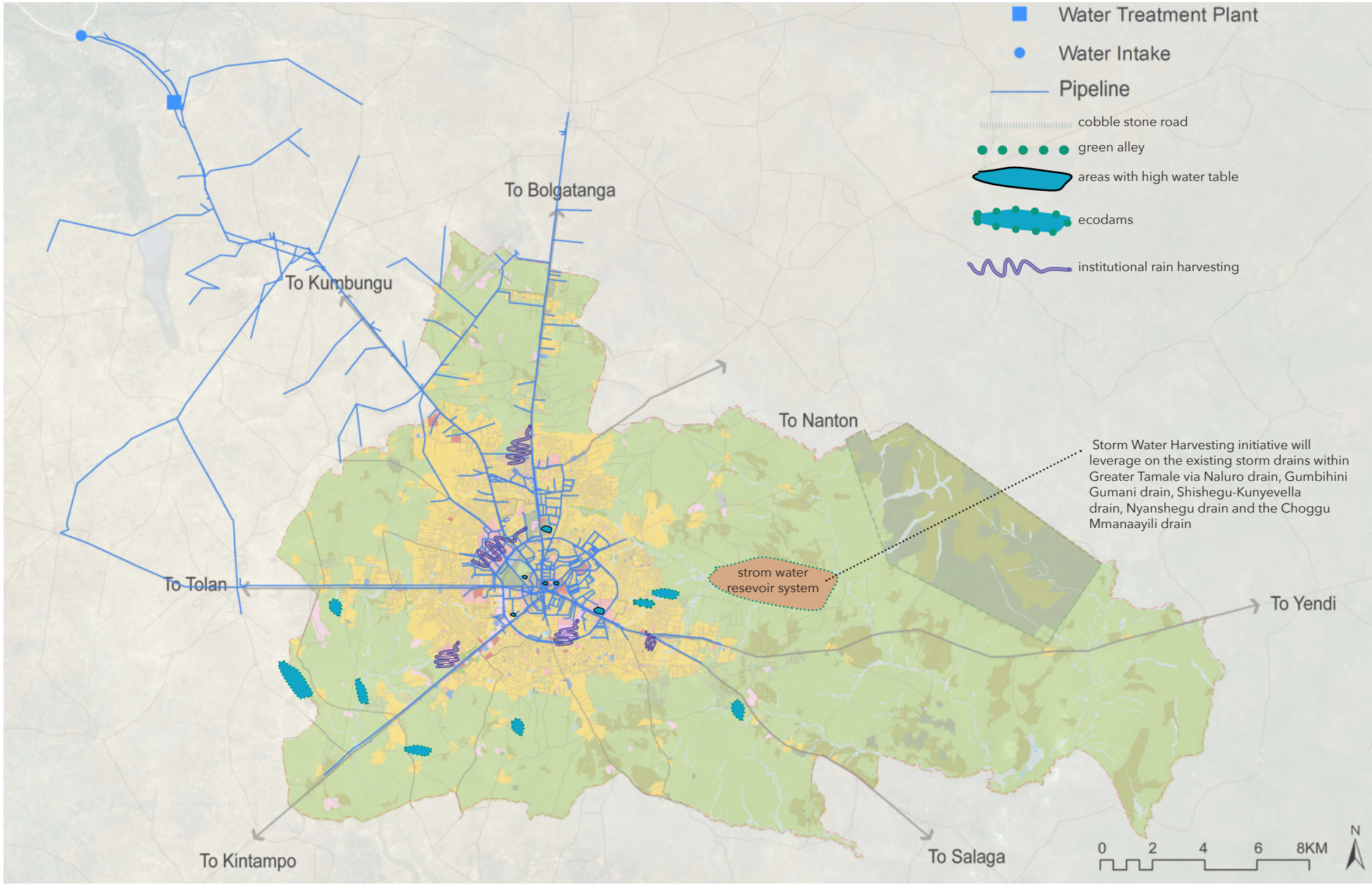
Erosion Control: Slowing water flow reduces topsoil runoff, preserving the fertile land necessary for high rice yields.

Control of water invasive plants as water hyacinth - innovation use for packaging or waste management.

RICE CITY

Sponge City approches have a high relevance to rice farming as Tamale is a major hub for local rice production. Managing agricultural water is just as critical as urban water management, especially for periurban areas.

p. 1 - Strom drain Intake point, The Appledore Pumping Station, Kent
p. 2 - Water hyacith harvesting in White Volta
p. 3 - Tamale Water Intake Tower - rercreational potential
p. 4 - Qunli National Urban Wetland by Turenscape
p. 5 - Rice fields in Yendi



Caption & credits: based on Greater Tamale Metropolitan Area Structure report, Feb 2018

NYOHINI

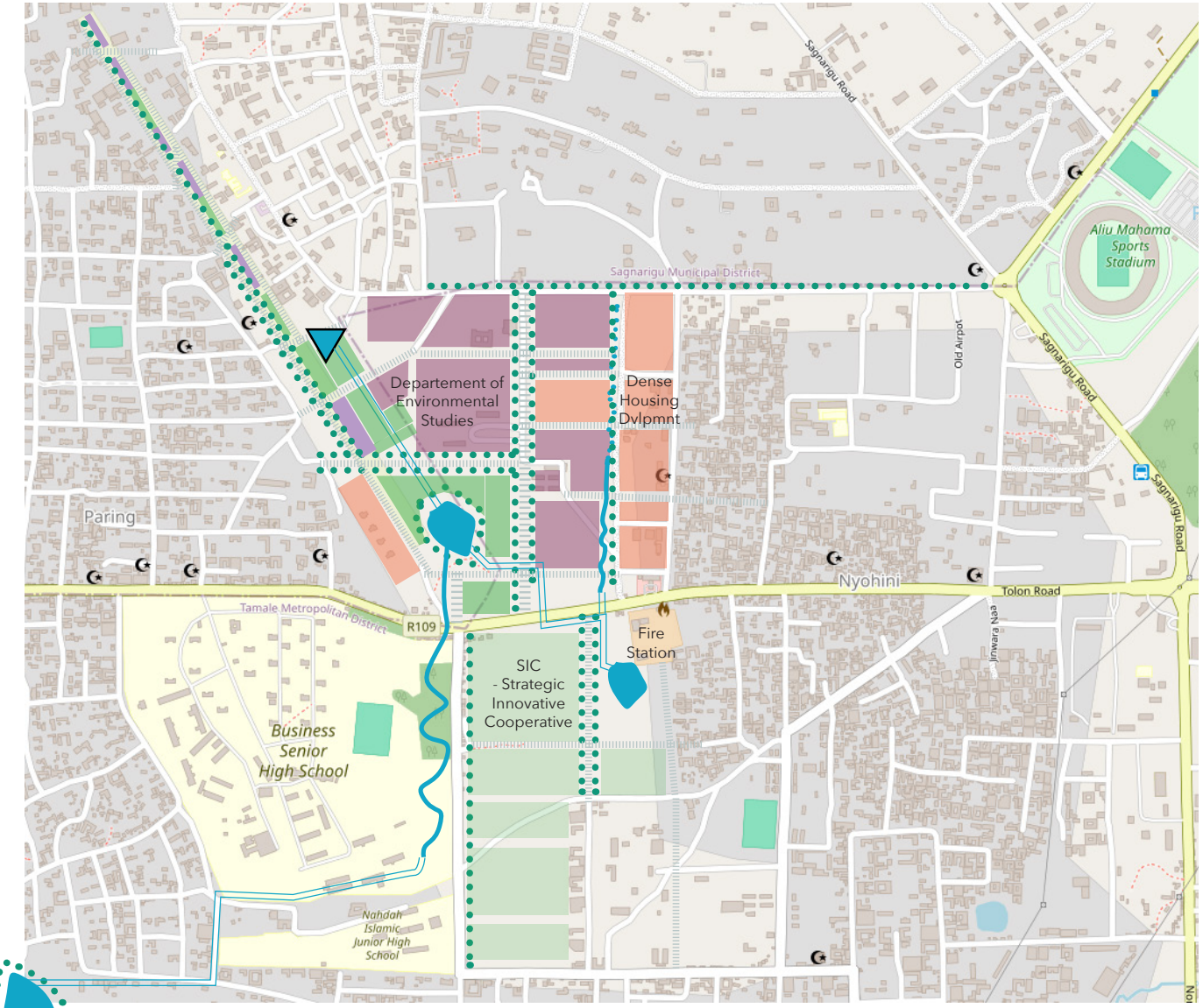
Nyohini is a district with number of social, spatial, environmental, economic and cultural potentials.

The masterplan is conditionned by decommissioning and relocation of Northern Command HQ presuming that the military purpose needs a strategic location different from the citycentre.

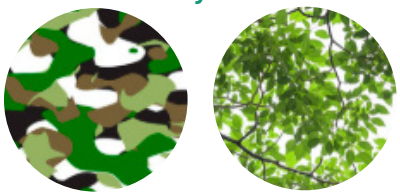
The vast compound and existing administration buildings and warehouses might be turned into a new campus of the Departement of Environemtal Studies, including Tamale´s Green Start-up Incubator and a Pilot District of Experimental High-density Housing Development including water sensitive urban design principles, including two retention water bodies related to the Fire Station and to the SIC site.

Existing State Insurance Company might support temporary use of its site for research purposes related to urban agriculture and water and soil purification and decontamination. Such an initiative, SIC - Strategic Innovative Cooperative, might be supported by Memorandum of Understanding signed by key stakeholders.

- cobble stone road
- green alley
- retention - rainwater harvesting
- water watch tower for gravity water distribution
- water retardant open collector
- water conductor
- urban agriculture - temporary use
- urban agriculture - research use
- education and research
- residential - experimental housing
- public - active recreational
- existing Nyohini dam



from military to nature

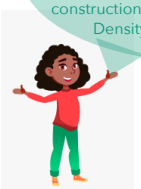


Zeri Yogbu district

Decomissioning the Northern Command HQ allows to develop a whole new distrcit as a pilot urban planning project for a water-sensitive city. This project replaces conventional gray infrastructure with nature-based solutions like constructed wetlands, permeable pavements, and green roofs to manage flood risks, filter pollution, and reuse stormwater.

The regenerative aspect of architecture within the experimental high-density housing development will be enhanced by low-tech principles of cooling basins and wind towers.

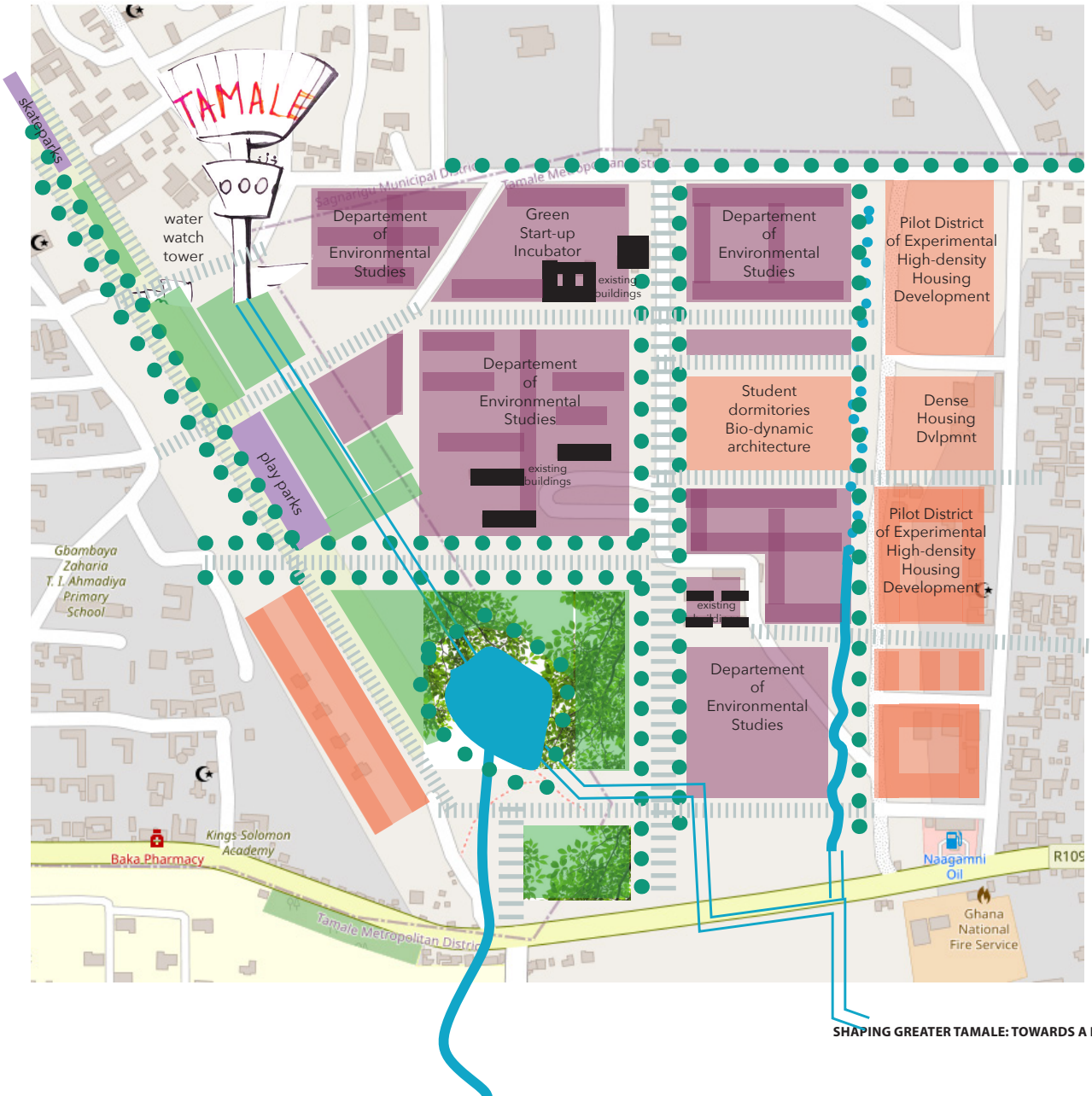
As part of the water supply system for Nyohini, a water tower is designed. The watertower, visually percieved as a landmark, will serve as a watchtower as well, to observe the landscape design from higher perspective. This particular water-watchtower contributes to the orientation in the city and also to the collective memory of the site and Tamale itself, reminding us of an (never-existing) airport control tower of former airfield.



The Zeri Yogbu watchtower is my favorite spot in Tamale. I love watching sunset on Nyohini with my friends. But since I started to study architecture in Kumasi, I come often by myself to observe the construction site of the Experimental High-Density Housing Development. It is so inspiring.

Tipaya, student
20 years old in 2036





Engagement, Implementation, Operations & Maintenance arrangements

Interventions	Engagement	Intervention	Operation and Maintenance
Off-grid water system	Institutionalized within GWCL as alternative within its operational areas	Strategic establishment of off-grid water systems in areas with high groundwater table	Operate and maintain by GWCL Distribute running water via PVC pipes to residents. Groundwater pump into storage tanks and supplied via gravity. Sustained Operation & Maintenance by billing
Rainwater harvesting	Build capacities households and institutions to pilot and scale-up water harvesting	Collecting, filtering, and storing rainwater from rooftops	Households, government departments and schools take responsibilities over operations & maintenance of water
Stormwater harvesting	Institutionalized within GWCL as alternative source within its operational areas	Establish stormwater ponds, and Network the six (6) existing drains to the central stormwater ponds for onward collection and treatments	Operate and maintain by GWCL storage tanks and supplied via gravity. Sustained Operation & Maintenance by billing, eventually establish small treatment plants for water purification and distribution instead of store
Small dams (dug-outs) regenerations	Community awareness creation, Neighbourhood monitoring team Establish local water stewards (youth, women, chiefs, schools) to manage, protect, and monitor water points	Wetlands and small dams regenerations Protect rivers, wetlands and (sacred) natural sites	Annual small dams regeneration via communal labour (Assembly & neighbourhood partnership)

FLAGSHIP CAMPAIN

"**One Greater Tamale – One Water Future**"
This campaign would unite all stakeholders around a shared vision that water security is a collective responsibility.

The Greater Tamale Water & Sustainability Strategy promotes a community-driven approach that links infrastructure investment with behavioural change, civic ownership, and collective action under "**Every Drop Counts. Every Citizen Matters.**"

It mobilises community stewardship committees, Water Champions, schools, women, youth, faith groups, and traditional authorities to actively manage and protect water resources.

Key initiatives include Water Smart Schools, Youth Green Jobs, Women's Water Leadership, and Blue-Green Volunteer Corps to drive education, employment, and environmental action.

Open digital platforms enable real-time reporting of leaks, flooding, and pollution for improved accountability and response.

A Community Water Innovation Fund supports local solutions such as rainwater harvesting, drainage upgrades, and recycling initiatives.

Behaviour change is reinforced through campaigns like "My Water, My Responsibility" and widespread media engagement.

WATER IS A GIFT FROM NATURE, BUT THE SERVICE IS ON OUR COLLECTIVE BEHALF

Water is freely provided by nature but delivering safe and reliable drinking water requires significant investment in treatment, storage, pumping, distribution, maintenance, and infrastructure expansion. The Greater Tamale water supply system is served by the Dalun Water Treatment Plant, commissioned in 1972, with a daily production capacity of 44,560 m³. Treated water is stored in nine service tanks and distributed through approximately 562.5 km of pipelines (19–1,200 mm) across the metropolis.
Despite this investment, the system faces a major challenge of Non-Revenue Water (NRW), water that is produced but generates no revenue due to leakages, illegal connections, meter inaccuracies, and unbilled consumption. In 2009, 51.5% of water produced in Tamale was classified as non-revenue water, threatening the financial sustainability of water service delivery

What Can We Do?
• Strengthen public education on the cost of treating and delivering water, emphasizing that payment supports the service not the natural resource.
• Reduce illegal connections through community regularization campaigns and stronger enforcement.
• SMART metres - Promote convenient payment options, including Mobile Money and flexible payment arrangements.

Our Collective Responsibility
Every paid water bill helps maintain pipelines, repair leaks, improve service reliability, and expand access to underserved communities. Likewise, reporting leaks, avoiding illegal connections, conserving water, and paying bills on time are shared responsibilities that will secure a sustainable water future for Greater Tamale.
Water is a gift from nature, but sustaining the service that delivers it safely to every home is a responsibility we all share.

FUNDING

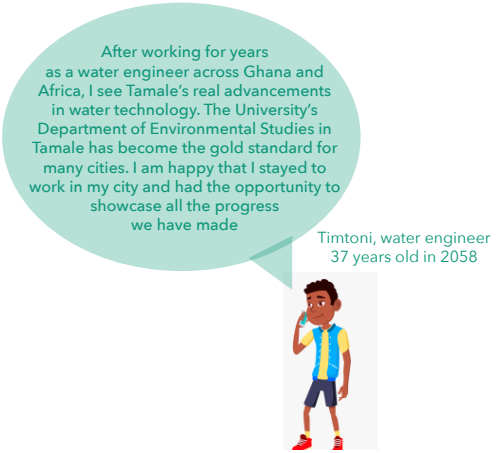
The funding framework for Greater Tamale water and sustainability is built on 7 integrated pillars combining public investment, climate finance, development partners, PPPs, community financing, and innovative mechanisms.

Government funding is strengthened through ring-fenced MMDA budgets, DACF, and national programmes, supported by development partners like the World Bank, AfDB, EU, and UN agencies. Climate finance can be mobilised from GCF, GEF, and related funds for resilience projects such as flood control, wetland restoration, and urban greening.

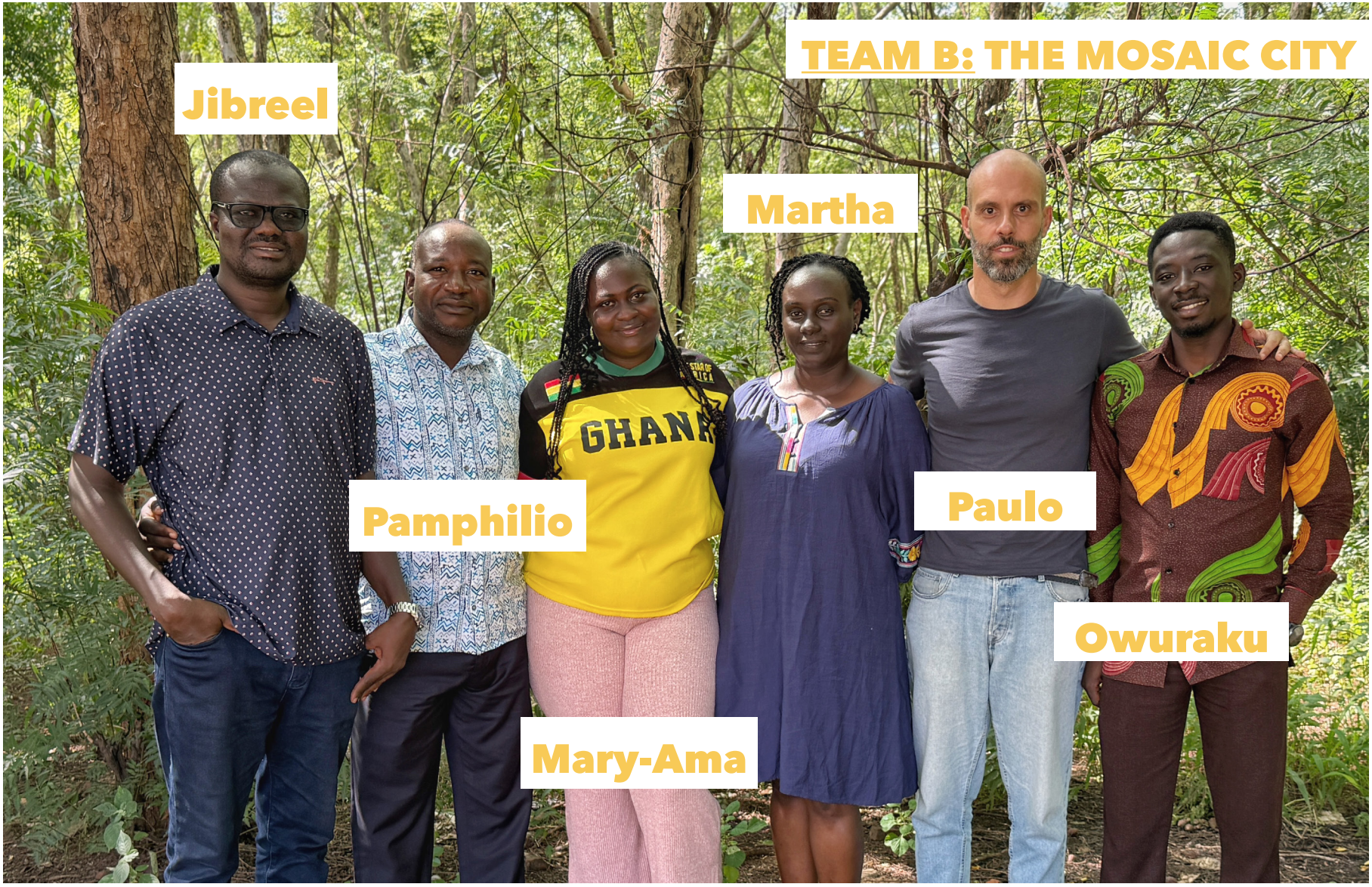
Private sector participation is enabled through PPPs and a proposed Green Infrastructure Bond, while corporate responsibility and CSR support community water initiatives. Local ownership is reinforced through community funds, savings groups, and ecosystem payment schemes.

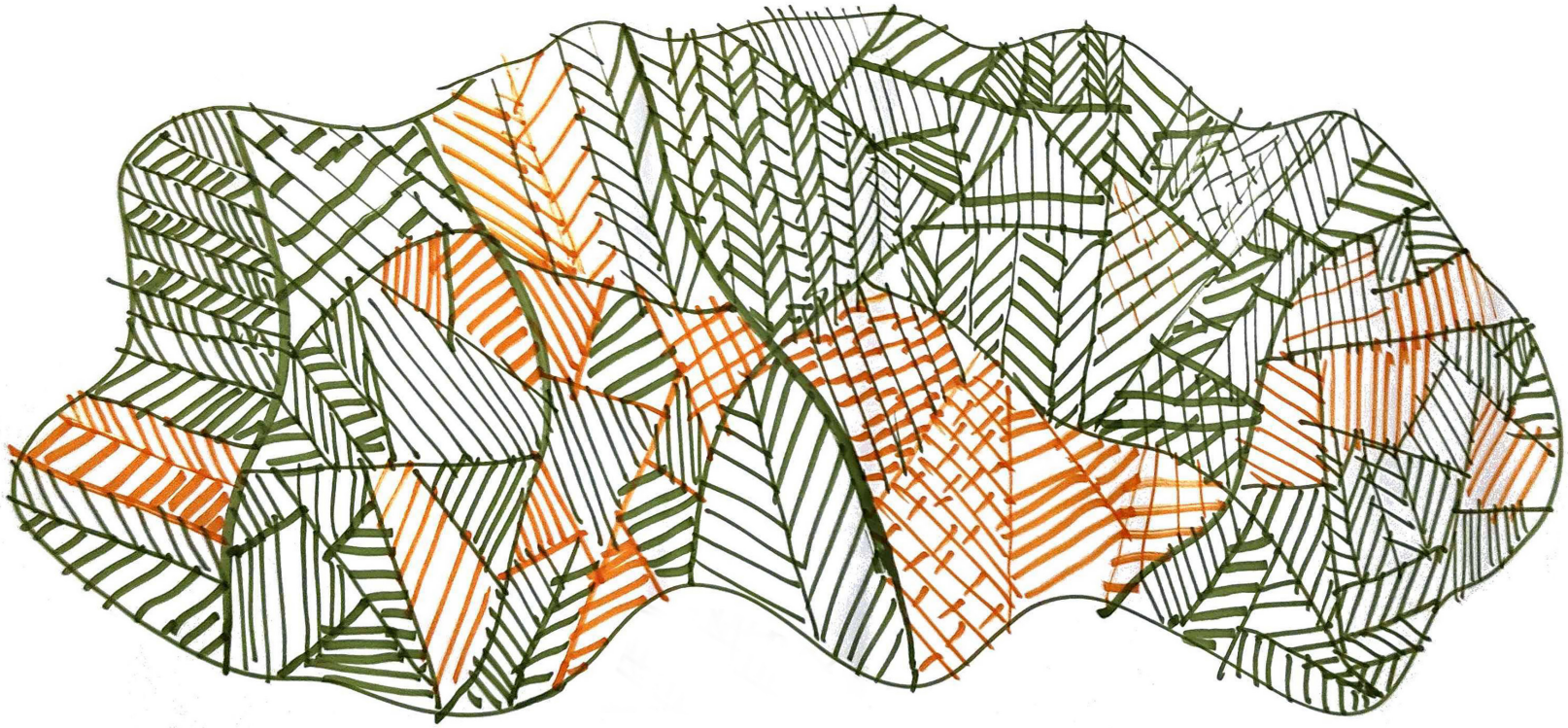
Innovative financing includes circular economy revenues, diaspora investment, digital crowdfunding via a WaterSmart platform, and an annual innovation challenge fund.

Overall, the strategy blends multiple funding sources into a diversified system aimed at achieving long-term water security, climate resilience, and sustainable urban development.



TEAM B: THE MOSAIC CITY





The Mosaic City

Towards a Greener Growth Development in Greater Tamale

1.1 Spatial location of Greater Tamale Metropolitan Assembly.

The Greater Tamale Metropolitan Area (GTMA) comprises the Tamale Metropolis and the Sagnarigu Municipal Administrative Districts, serving as the regional capital of the Northern Region. As the largest urban centre, GTMA has experienced rapid urbanization, accompanied by challenges such as urban sprawl, traffic congestion, housing deficits, waste management, and infrastructure pressures.

Strategically located along Ghana's North–South economic development corridor and serving as a cross-border linkage to Burkina Faso, GTMA holds tremendous potential as a growth capital. It is well-positioned to catalyse regional transformation, acting as a gateway to the Sahel Region. This strategic role enhances opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and improved living standards for its growing population.

2.0 Situational analysis

2.1 Solid waste condition in GTMA

The Waste Management Department (WMD) of the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly (TaMA) oversees solid waste management in GTMA, including collection and disposal. According to the 2025 WMD Annual Report, a total of 779,947.2 tons of waste was generated, of which solid waste constituted 70% and liquid waste 30%.
Solid waste is composed mainly of polythene, plastics, paper, and broken wood, with polythene bags accounting for 35%. This composition presents significant opportunities for recycling, particularly in producing materials for green buildings.

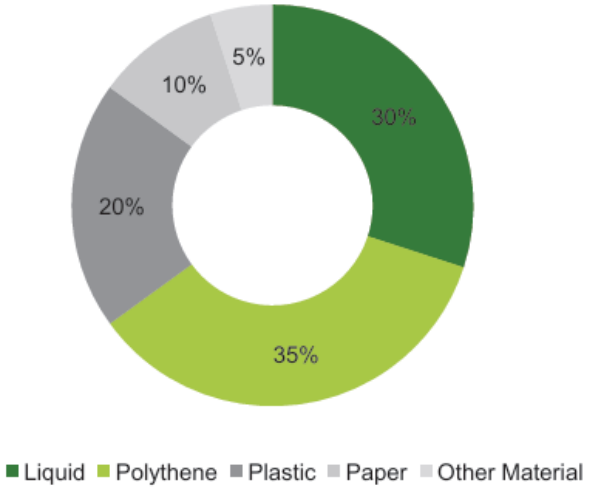
To address these challenges, the team proposes recycling waste into valuable inputs for green housing, urban agriculture, and plastic-based products to stimulate local economic development.

2.2 Urban Pattern & Housing Typologies

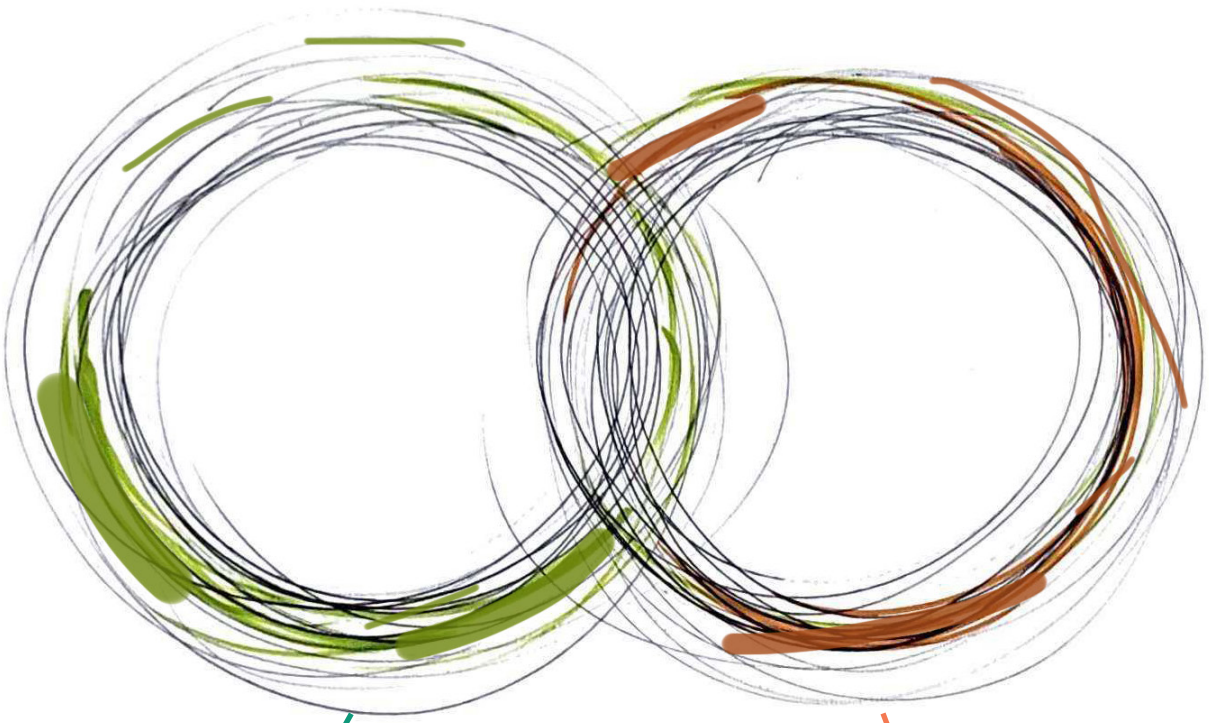
In 2025, GTMA had approximately 88,967 housing units. Settlements are largely scattered in a grid pattern, with both paved and unpaved roads. Compound houses dominate the housing typology, accounting for 76% of total units. These are typically single-storey buildings with central courtyards, constructed with mud bricks, earth, cement blocks, or concrete.

Given the inadequacy of housing units, GTMA must accommodate an estimated 1.8 million people by 2040. Planned interventions in green housing will be critical to meeting this demand while promoting sustainability and resilience.

Cities like Greater Tamale Metropolitan are among the most powerful engines of job creation. The potential of a city is not automatic; it is a deliberate effort.
Local urban conditions matter to identify potential areas for productivity, urban growth and employment opportunities
Effective public private coalitions create more local jobs, connect people with market opportunities and attract investment.



Type of Housing	Total Number	% Share
Separate House	5,726	9.7%
Semi-detached House	2,373	4.0%
Flat/Apartment	1,606	2.7%
Compound House (rooms)	44,788	76.1%
Others	4,362	7.4%
Total	**58,855**	**100%**



SAGRIFAANI

Waste Benefit

YESUMA

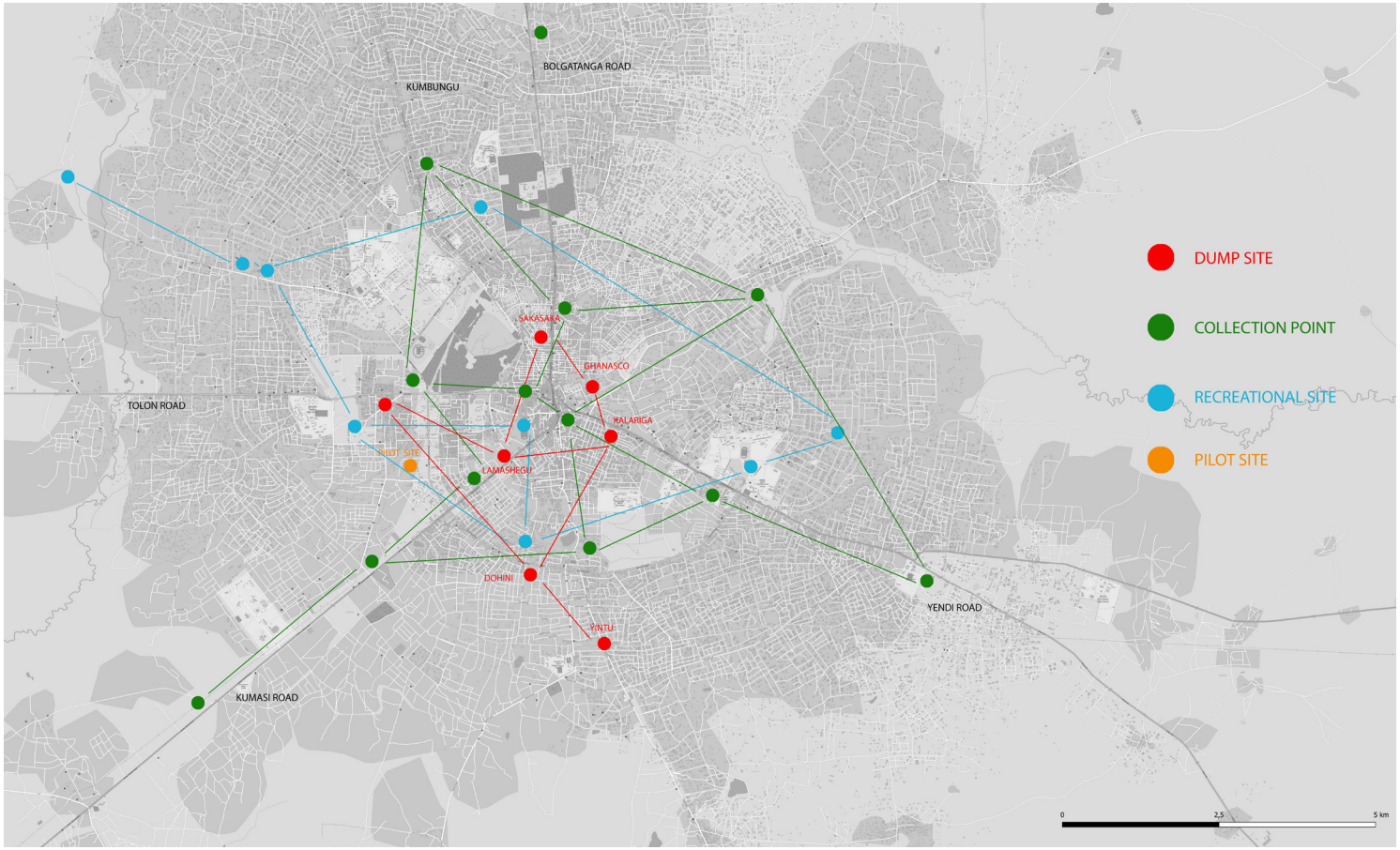
Green Building System

TING VELLI

Ting Velli in the Dagbani dialect, refers to a clean city. The team's objective was to explore avenues that contribute to sustainable urban growth in Greater Tamale by 2040. Two major pillars guided this proposal: Sagrifaani (Waste Benefit) and Tuunsuma (Green Jobs). The proposal seeks to examine the prospects of transforming solid waste into valuable resources for green buildings, compost for urban agriculture, and other innovative products aimed at boosting the local economy through green jobs.

In view of the proposed of the economic reestructuring and positioning of GTAMA, as the northern service hub under NSEZ, it is envisioned that the city will post a population of 1.8 million residents and generate 1.2 millions jobs by 2040.





Integrated Network Map

SAGRIFAANI

Solid Waste Management

The waste crisis is a major environmental challenge to the urban population in particular in Nyohini and greater Tamale area. Conversely, this challenge presents an opportunity to embrace the circular economy narrative embedded within the development priorities of the Tamale municipal assembly and environmental protection measures.
The conventional waste management system in place within tamale metropolitan area requires intermediary intervention particularly to bridge the gap between primary collection and final disposal at Gbalahi.

In order to enhance efficiency in the management of solid waste and enhance the waste value chain within greater Tamale, the SAGRIFAANI- Waste to Resource, approach is proposed

This approach is set on three key interventions
i) Strengthen waste segregation at source.
ii) Develop community material recovery facilities (CMRFs)
iii) Establish Green Training Hubs

Additionally, two (2) key principals under the hierarchy of waste management are offered as a fit for purpose in the present conditions in Nyohini and future prospects for greater Tamale area.

1. To reduce waste
An estimated 50% of Tamale's waste generated could be diverted to community material recovery centres before final disposal at Gbalahi. At the CMRC's organic waste composting can take place to produce organic compost for urban and peri-urban agriculture activities.

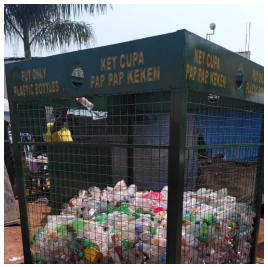
2. To recover materials
Through recycling initiatives, the waste value chain will be enhanced, green skills adopted and production of new materials created to benefit community led social, economic and infrastructure sub-projects.

The Building Blocks
SAGRIFAANI- Waste to Resource
Segregation at Source
At settlement and institutional levels, in public spaces especially market areas, waste segregation shall be promoted.
Segregation of waste shall be done into two major categories ie organic/wet waste and inorganic/dry waste.
This approach will be facilitated by the two-bin approach (Taka - Taka solutions).

Waste collection services can be optimized once waste is clearly segregated.
Community Material Recovery Centres
The community material recovery centres are proposed to serve densely populated neigbourhoods such as informal settlements and waste collected from public areas such as food markets.
Wet waste shall be treated using organic technology such as the Black solider fly (BSF) which turns organic waste products into valuable resources known as compost.

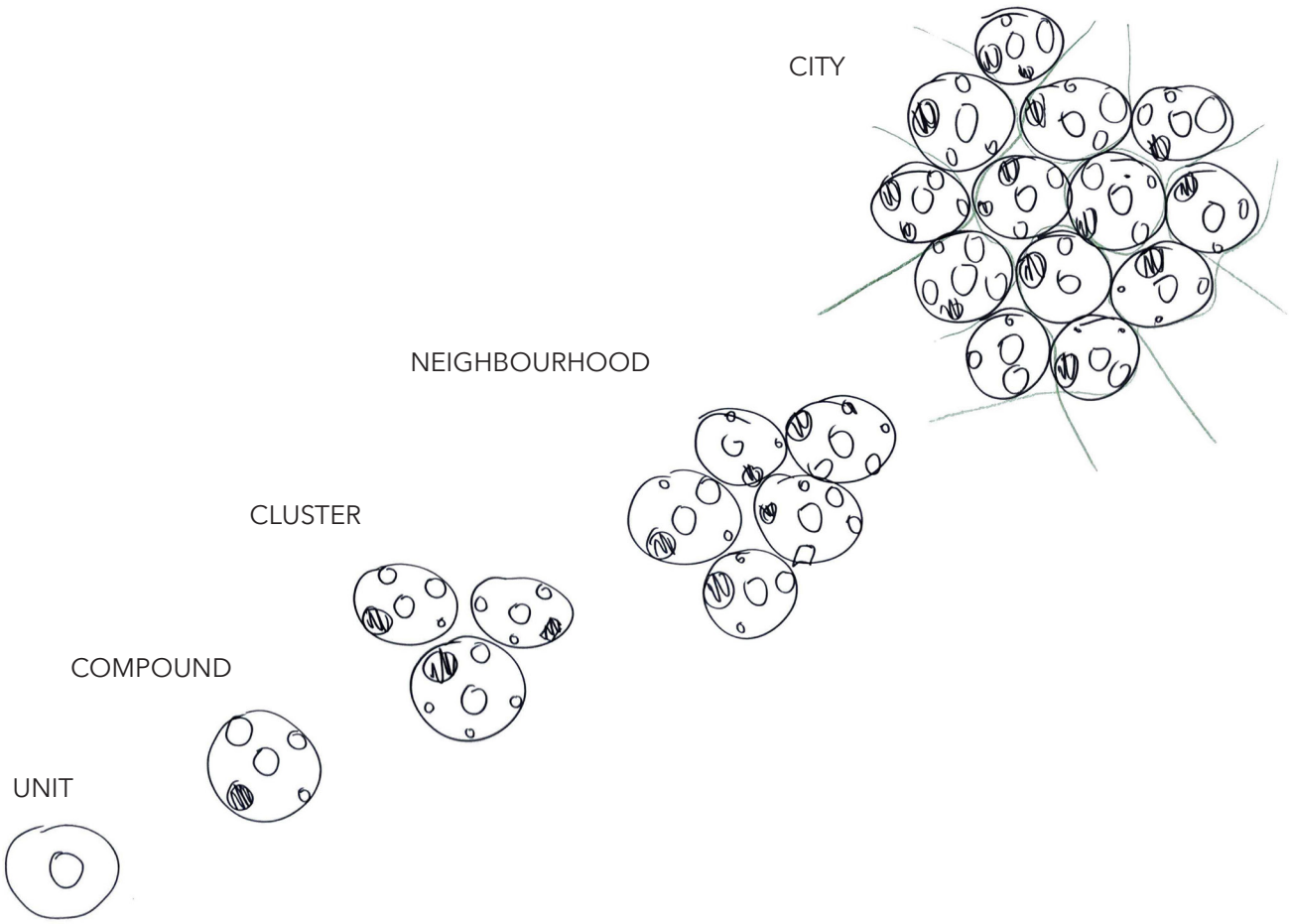


Case Study for material recovery center - Wankonko - KCCA









From cell to compound, to neighbourhood to city

YESUMA

Green Building System

What is this system?

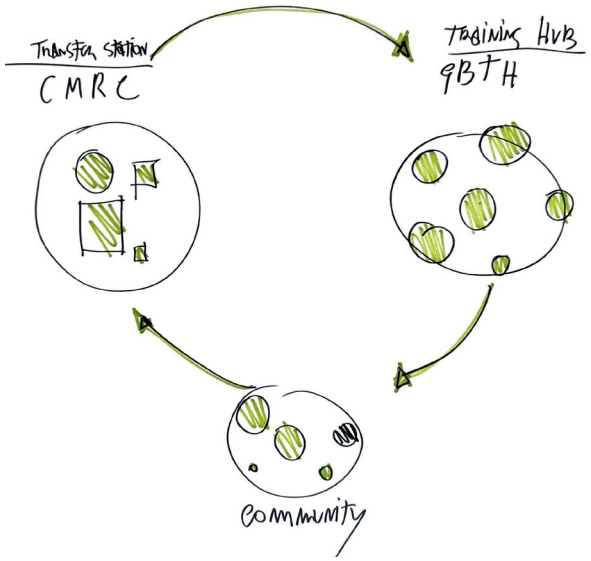
The Green Building System is conceived as a multi-scalar network connecting people, resources and place.

Rather than introducing isolated buildings, it establishes a continuous relationship from the unit building to the compound, to the neighbourhood and to the metropolitan scale.
Community Collection Points, Resource Transfer Hubs and the Green Building & Training Hub create a network where materials, knowledge and skills circulate together.

Waste becomes a resource, local know-how is strengthened and bio-based materials are reintroduced into contemporary construction.
Through this interconnected system, climate-responsive architecture becomes both a driver of green jobs and a catalyst for resilient neighbourhoods, allowing local knowledge to scale from the individual compound to the Mosaic City.

This system responds to four key challenges:
- Rapid urban growth
- Inadequate construction
- Loss of local building knowledge
- Climate vulnerability

Its ambition is to transform construction into a driver of green jobs, local knowledge and climate resilience.



Spatial System and Resource Flows

How is it created? The Anchor.

The Green Building System is developed through a Human-Centred Design (HCD) approach that builds upon local spatial intelligence rather than replacing it. It adopts a holistic and multi-scalar perspective, operating from the compound to the neighbourhood and metropolitan scale, bringing together artisans, communities, young people, technical institutes, universities, municipalities and authorities in a continuous process of co-design, learning and implementation.

Rather than introducing spatial structures disconnected from local life, the proposal identifies places already appropriated by the community and enhances their environmental performance, social role and spatial quality.

The network connects Community Collection Points (CCP), Community Material Recovery Centres (CMRCs) and a Green Building Training Hub (GBTH) into a circular system where materials, knowledge and skills flow between neighbourhoods and the city. This network creates a relationship between waste management, resource recovery, education and construction, allowing local knowledge to be generated, tested, shared and applied through territorial anchors.

The objective is not only to recover materials collected through the CMRCs for use in the GBTH, but also to transform both facilities into demonstrators of green architecture. They show how environmental performance, local materials and community-oriented design create employment, improve public space and strengthen neighbourhood identity.

The Community Material Recovery Centre (CMRC) goes beyond a conventional waste transfer station. It becomes a neighbourhood anchor providing shaded public spaces, water points, meeting areas, play spaces and opportunities for social interaction, reimagining waste management infrastructure as civic infrastructure.

The Green Building Training Hub (GBTH) functions as the knowledge centre of the system. It is a place to learn, experiment, produce, build and share knowledge with the community.
Working with technical institutes and universities, it develops local skills, tests construction systems, produces building components and demonstrates climate-responsive architecture adapted to Tamale's conditions.
The CMRCs and the GBTH are conceived as demonstrator projects, built using three complementary material families:

- Bio-based materials (earth, timber and natural fibres)
- Recycled materials
- Upcycled materials

These materials are combined with climate-responsive strategies including passive cooling, solar protection, water-sensitive design, rainwater harvesting, bio-based thermal envelopes and, where appropriate, renewable energy systems.
The GBTH recognises vernacular architecture as a living source of spatial and constructive intelligence. Existing informal knowledge is studied, refined and translated into contemporary building systems responding to climatic, social and economic challenges. By enhancing and scaling this local knowledge, it allows architectural intelligence developed over generations to become the foundation for future urban growth.
Building local skills while building resilient cities.

Building with Place



From vernacular intelligence to contemporary circular construction. Local materials, recycled resources and climate-responsive building systems.

How does it work at the neighbourhood scale?

Nyohini Pilot

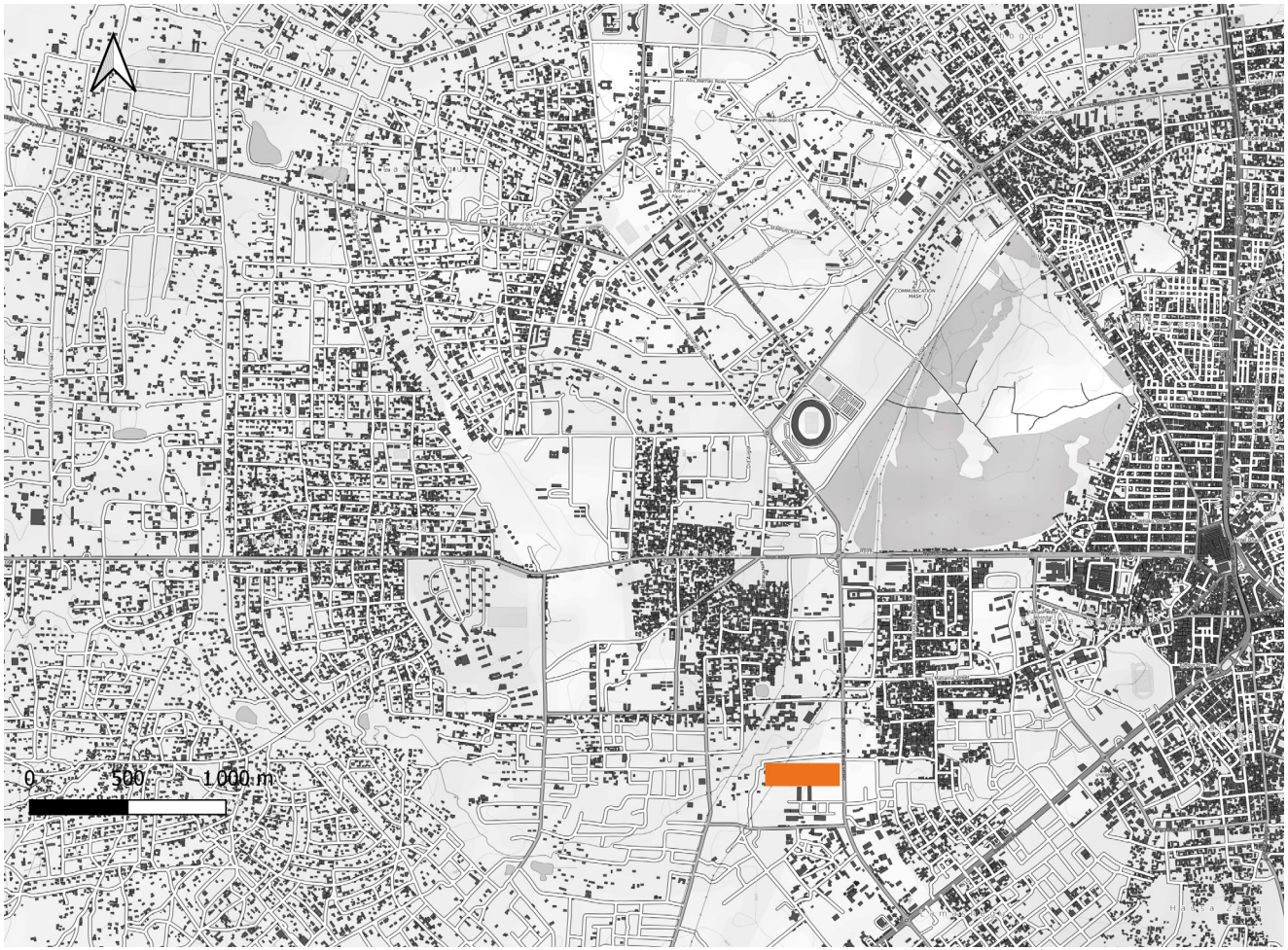
Nyohini, located in the western part of Greater Tamale, was selected as the pilot neighbourhood due to the challenges identified in waste management, rapid urban growth and housing.

The proposal introduces a Green Building Training Hub (GBTH) and a Community Material Recovery Centre (CMRC) as complementary facilities operating within a circular system. Together, they create a local ecosystem where materials, knowledge and skills circulate, supporting both green jobs and climate-responsive construction.

The pilot demonstrates how this integrated approach can strengthen neighbourhood resilience while providing a scalable model for replication across Greater Tamale.

Plot selection for Pilot

The plot was selected for its strategic location, adjacent to the main roads and within an industrial zone compatible with the proposed activities, while remaining embedded within a residential community and close to markets, schools and the existing waste collection network.



Proposed place for pilot project.

What does it look like?

•A climate-responsive neighbourhood based on local resources and community participation.

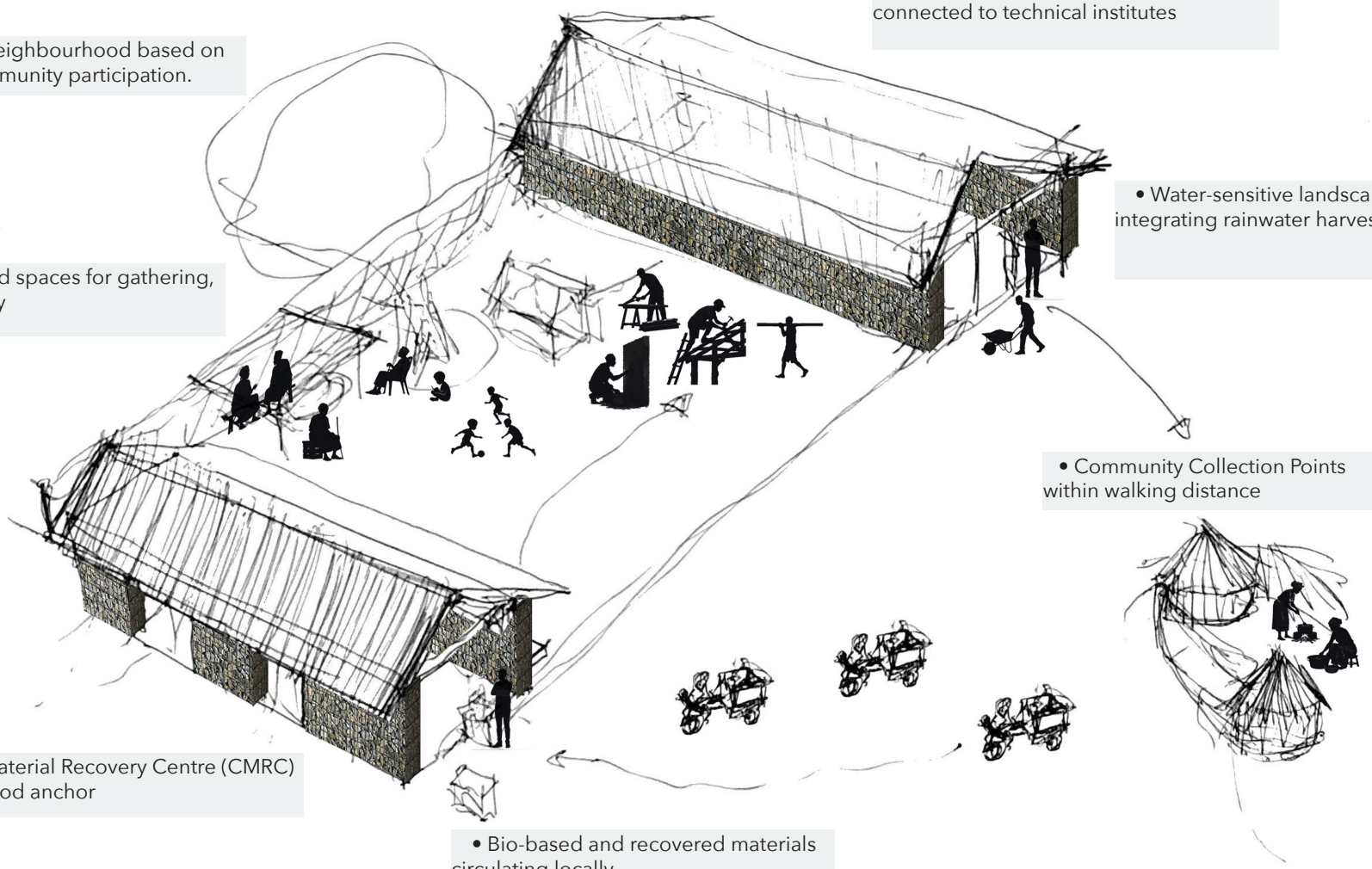
• Prototype climate-responsive compounds

• Green Building Training Hub (GBTH) connected to technical institutes

• Water-sensitive landscape integrating rainwater harvesting

• Public shaded spaces for gathering, learning and play

• Community Collection Points within walking distance



• Community Material Recovery Centre (CMRC) as a neighbourhood anchor

• Bio-based and recovered materials circulating locally

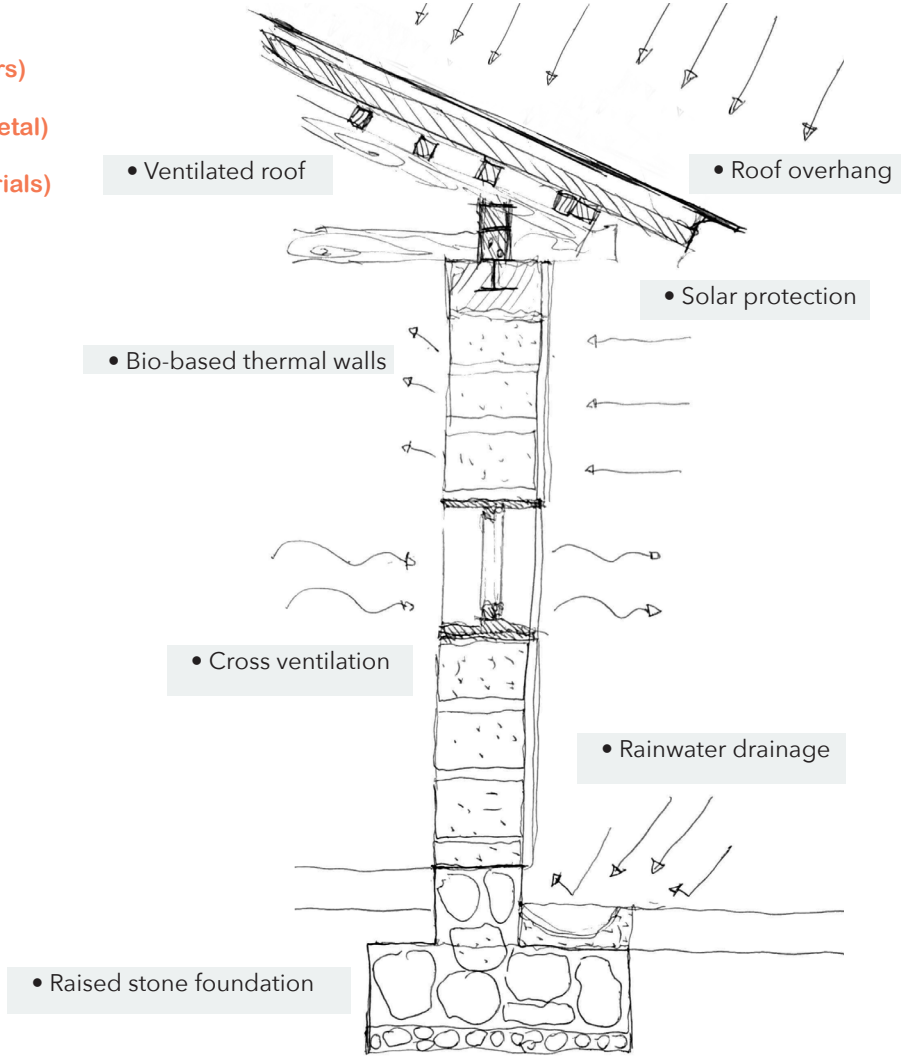


Material Families:

1) Raw (Earth, Wood, Fibers)

2) Recycle (Plastic, Glass, Metal)

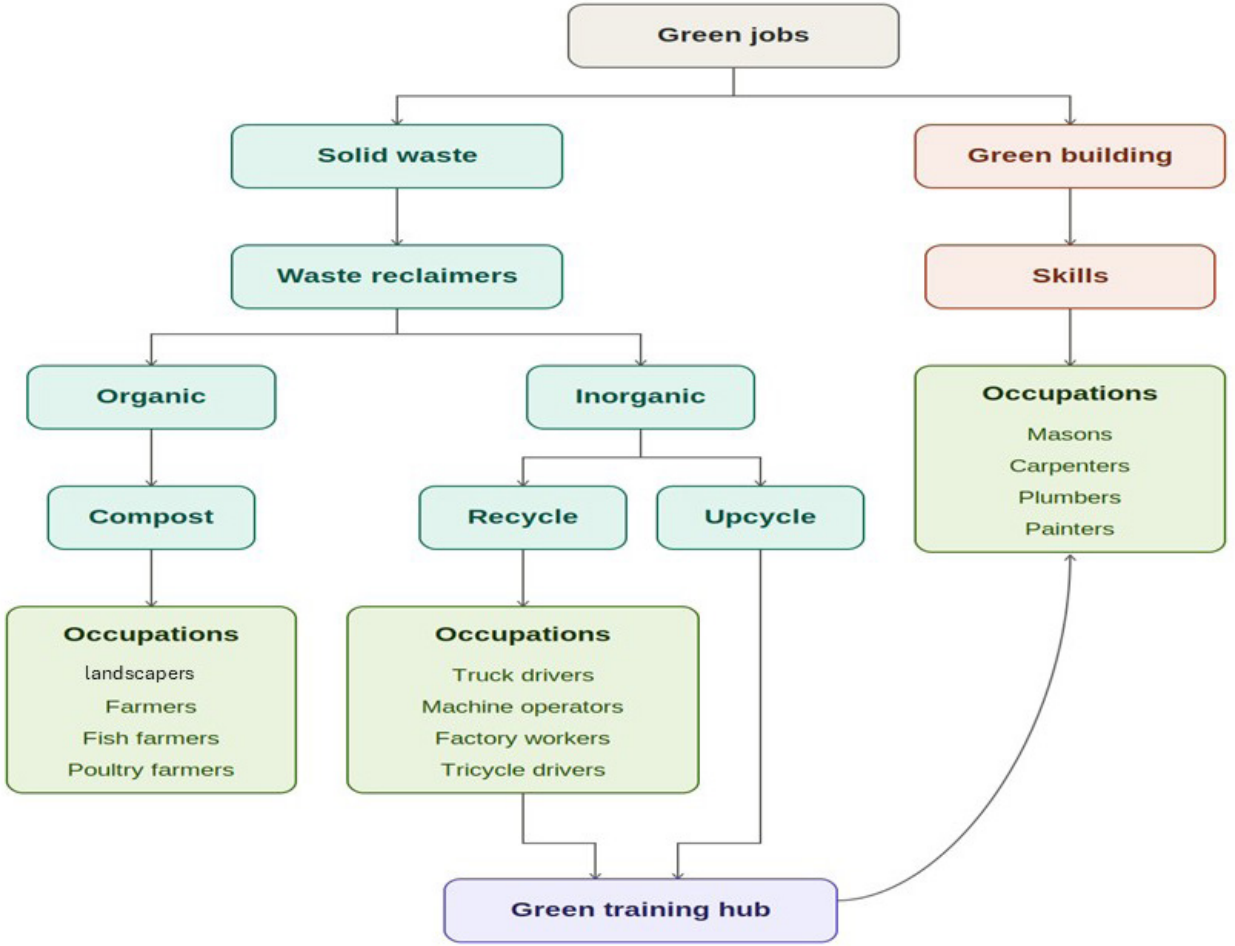
3) Upcycle (Reclaimed materials)



Contemporary climate-responsive wall system inspired by vernacular construction.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Reduced incidence of diseases such as cholera, typhoid malaria, and diarrhea due to cleaner surrounding.
Increased public awareness and adoption of proper waste disposal, recycling, and environmental sanitation practices
Cleaner neighborhoods, streets, markets, and public spaces
Communities become more involved in clean-up campaigns, waste segregation, and environmental decision-making
Stronger collaboration between citizens, local authorities, and civil society organizations
Employment opportunities in waste collection, recycling, composting, and waste processing
Women and youth can access new income-generating opportunities in recycling and waste-based enterprises
Greater accountability and responsiveness of local governments in delivering sanitation services
Cleaner environments attract investment, tourism, and business activities.

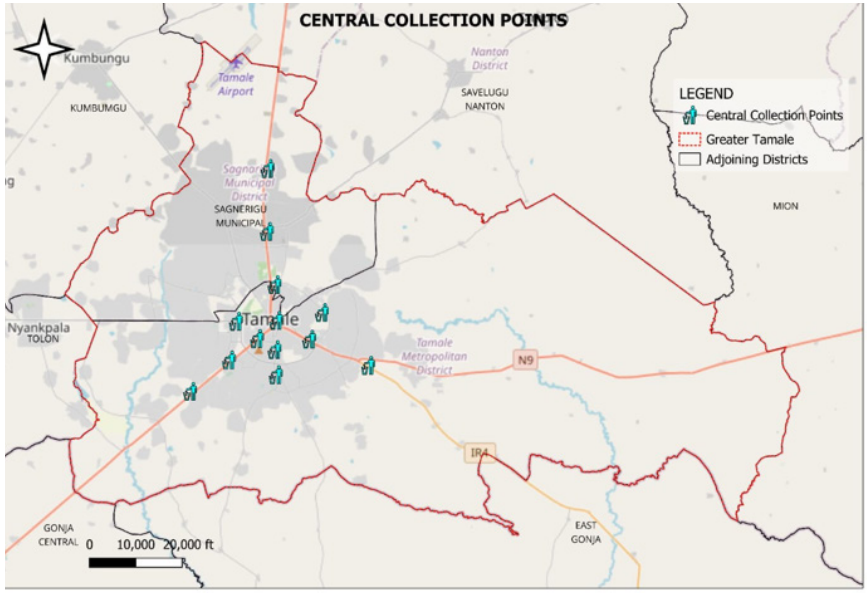


Conceptual framework for job creation.

IMPLEMENTATION

The successful implementation of this proposal requires a well-coordinated approach that integrates technical planning, stakeholder participation, institutional collaboration, and adaptive management.

Accordingly, the implementation plan below outlines the sequential activities that will be undertaken to establish a material recovery eco-system that improves environmental outcomes while generating decent green jobs and livelihood opportunities for women, men and youth.



Proposed material recovery center CMRC

GOAL		Towards Green Growth Development in Greater Tamale	No. of green jobs created (disaggregated by sex/youth); tonnes of solid waste diverted from open dumping/landfill annually; no. of structures built with recycled/local material content	Project M&E reports; Assembly waste management records; end-of-pilot evaluation	Political and institutional support from the Assembly sustained; macro-economic stability				
PILLAR 1		SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT — Waste segregation at source → Community Material Recovery Centre (CMRC) → Training Hub (recycled materials transformed into usable products)							
Outcome 1.0	1.0	Improved waste segregation, recovery and value-addition systems established in pilot zone(s) of Greater Tamale	% of pilot households/businesses practising source segregation; tonnes of recyclables recovered & processed/year; no. of green jobs created along the SWM value chain	Household surveys; CMRC & Training Hub operations records; Assembly sanitation reports	Households willing to adopt segregation behaviour; consistent collection logistics				
IR 1.1	1.1	Waste segregation at source institutionalised among households and businesses							
Output 1.1.1	1.1.1	Households and businesses in pilot communities sensitized and equipped for source segregation	No. of households/businesses reached with sensitization; no. of colour-coded	Distribution/attendance registers; monitoring visit reports	Community leaders and MYF/youth volunteers cooperate	X	X		
Activity 1.1.1.1	1.1.1.1	Conduct baseline waste characterization/audit	Baseline waste audit report produced	Audit report		X			
Activity 1.1.1.2	1.1.1.2	Public education campaign (durbars, radio, house-to-house)	No. of durbars/radio broadcasts held	Activity/attendance reports		X	X		
Activity 1.1.1.3	1.1.1.3	Distribute colour-coded bins/bags to households and businesses	No. of bins/bags distributed	Distribution records		X	X		
Activity 1.1.1.4	1.1.1.4	Recruit and train community waste ambassadors/volunteers	No. of ambassadors trained	Training reports/attendance		X	X		
IR 1.2	1.2	Community Material Recovery Centre (CMRC) established and operational							
Output 1.2.1	1.2.1	CMRC infrastructure constructed and equipped	CMRC operational (Y/N); sorting/processing capacity (tonnes/month)	Site inspection; commissioning report	Timely site allocation by Assembly	X	X		
Activity 1.2.1.1	1.2.1.1	Site acquisition and design of CMRC	Site secured; design approved	Land documentation; approved design		X			
Activity 1.2.1.2	1.2.1.2	Construction of CMRC	% construction completed	Works completion certificate		X	X		
Activity 1.2.1.3	1.2.1.3	Procure sorting, baling and shredding equipment	Equipment installed and functional	Procurement/delivery records			X		
Activity 1.2.1.4	1.2.1.4	Recruit and train CMRC operators/sorters	No. of operators trained and deployed	Training/employment records			X		
Output 1.2.2	1.2.2	Collection and transport logistics linking households/businesses to the CMRC established	% of pilot area covered by regular collection; collection frequency achieved vs	Route/schedule logs; service monitoring reports	Private sector/Assembly collection partners available	X	X	X	
Activity 1.2.2.1	1.2.2.1	Procure/contract collection vehicles or tricycles	No. of vehicles/tricycles in service	Asset/contract records		X	X		
Activity 1.2.2.2	1.2.2.2	Design collection routes and schedules	Route plan finalized	Route plan document		X			
Activity 1.2.2.3	1.2.2.3	Establish public-private collection partnerships	No. of signed partnership agreements	MOUs/contracts		X	X		
IR 1.3	1.3	Training Hub established to transform recovered materials into marketable products (green jobs)							
Output 1.3.1	1.3.1	Training Hub constructed, equipped and delivering recycling/upcycling training	Training Hub operational (Y/N); no. of trainees enrolled/graduated (by sex/youth)	Enrolment/graduation records; site inspection	Youth interest and enrolment sustained	X	X	X	
Activity 1.3.1.1	1.3.1.1	Construct/equip Training Hub (plastics recycling, composting, upcycling lines)	% construction completed; equipment installed	Works completion certificate; asset register		X	X		
Activity 1.3.1.2	1.3.1.2	Develop curricula for recycling/upcycling trades	Curricula validated and approved	Approved curriculum documents		X			
Activity 1.3.1.3	1.3.1.3	Train youth and artisans (incl. MYF/youth networks) in recycling trades	No. trained; no. certified	Training reports; certificates issued			X	X	
Activity 1.3.1.4	1.3.1.4	Support formation of youth-led green enterprises/cooperatives	No. of enterprises/cooperatives formed	Registration records			X	X	
Output 1.3.2	1.3.2	Recycled products developed, branded and linked to markets	No. of recycled product lines developed; value of sales/off-take agreements	Sales/off-take records; enterprise reports	Market demand for recycled products exists		X	X	X
Activity 1.3.2.1	1.3.2.1	Develop recycled products (pavement blocks, compost, plastic pellets, etc.)	No. of product lines piloted	Product test/quality reports			X	X	
Activity 1.3.2.2	1.3.2.2	Secure market linkages and off-take agreements	No. of buyers/off-takers secured	Signed agreements				X	X
Activity 1.3.2.3	1.3.2.3	Provide business/enterprise development support to graduates	No. of graduates receiving BDS support	BDS session records				X	X

Proposed implementation Stages

PILLAR 2		GREEN BUILDINGS — Use of local and recycled materials as raw material inputs for construction							
Outcome 2.0	**2.0**	**Increased use of local and recycled materials in building construction within Greater Tamale, generating green construction jobs**	**No. of structures built with ≥30% recycled/local material content; no. of green construction jobs created; % cost saving vs conventional materials**	**Site inspections; contractor/enterprise records; cost-comparison studies**	**Recycled material supply from Pillar 1 is consistent and of adequate quality**				
IR 2.1	2.1	Technical capacity for green/recycled-material construction developed							
Output 2.1.1	2.1.1	Local artisans, masons and youth trained and certified in green building techniques	No. of artisans trained/certified (by sex/youth)	Training records; certificates	Trained artisans remain engaged locally	X	X		
Activity 2.1.1.1	2.1.1.1	Assess locally available materials (laterite, compressed earth, recycled plastic/aggregate)	Materials assessment report produced	Assessment report		X			
Activity 2.1.1.2	2.1.1.2	Develop green building technical guidelines/standards	Guidelines approved	Approved guideline document		X			
Activity 2.1.1.3	2.1.1.3	Train masons/artisans in green building construction techniques	No. trained	Training reports		X	X		
Activity 2.1.1.4	2.1.1.4	Certify trained artisans	No. certified	Certificates issued			X		
IR 2.2	2.2	Demonstration green building(s) constructed using recycled/local materials							
Output 2.2.1	2.2.1	Demonstration structure(s) completed and documented	No. of demonstration structures completed; % recycled/local material	Site inspection; as-built documentation	Adequate recycled material supply and quality from		X	X	
Activity 2.2.1.1	2.2.1.1	Design demonstration building (e.g., public facility/Training Hub extension)	Design approved	Approved design/drawings			X		
Activity 2.2.1.2	2.2.1.2	Source/produce recycled building materials (plastic bricks/pavers, etc.)	Volume of recycled materials sourced	Production/procurement records			X	X	
Activity 2.2.1.3	2.2.1.3	Construct demonstration building	% construction completed	Works completion certificate				X	
Activity 2.2.1.4	2.2.1.4	Document cost-benefit and technical performance	Documentation published	Case study/technical report				X	X
IR 2.3	2.3	Market and policy environment for green building strengthened							
Output 2.3.1	2.3.1	Awareness and demand generated among households, developers and the Assembly	No. of stakeholders reached; no. of green-material contracts awarded	Event reports; Assembly permit records	Assembly willing to consider incentives for green materials			X	X
Activity 2.3.1.1	2.3.1.1	Public education/exhibition on green building	No. of events held; no. of attendees	Event reports				X	
Activity 2.3.1.2	2.3.1.2	Engage the Assembly on building permit incentives for green materials	Engagement held; proposal submitted	Meeting minutes; proposal document				X	X
Activity 2.3.1.3	2.3.1.3	Link trained artisans/enterprises to construction contracts	No. of contracts secured	Contract records				X	X
CROSS-CUTTING		**PROJECT COORDINATION, MEAL AND SCALING (applies to both pillars)**							
IR 3.1	**3.1**	**Functional coordination and MEAL system in place across both pillars**	**MEAL plan in use; no. of monitoring reports produced**	**MEAL plan; monitoring reports**	**Stakeholders provide timely data**				
Activity 3.1.1	3.1.1	Conduct baseline and endline surveys	Baseline/endline reports produced	Survey reports		X			X
Activity 3.1.2	3.1.2	Conduct quarterly monitoring and annual review	No. of monitoring/review reports	Monitoring/review reports		X	X	X	X
Activity 3.1.3	3.1.3	Document lessons learned from pilot implementation	Lessons-learned report produced	Lessons-learned document				X	X
Activity 3.1.4	3.1.4	Prepare action plan for zone selection/spatial requirements for scale-up	Action plan produced	Action plan document					X
Activity 3.1.5	3.1.5	Prepare project profile and investment plan for resource mobilization and O&M sustainability	Investment plan/project profile produced	Investment plan/project profile document					X



Upon successful completion of the pilot, the project can be scaled up to selected zones across the Greater Tamale area. Additionally, an action plan shall be prepared to inform the zone selection and spatial requirements.
The assembly will prepare a project profile and investment plan to inform resource mobilization, allocation and operation and maintenance costs in order to ensure sustainability of the facilities.

SCALING (EXPANDING PROJECT)

The pilot phase will demonstrate the technical, financial, and social viability of the proposed waste management model. Lessons learned from the pilot implementation will be documented and used to refine operational approaches, strengthen institutional arrangements, and address challenges before expansion.

CONCLUSION

Effective material recovery system fosters sustainable waste management practices that create cleaner and healthier environments, generate economic opportunities through a waste resource and green building system to contribute to inclusive and sustainable community development.


Fizzo
Manon
Salahudeen
Paxwell
Lydia
Paula
TEAM C: NEXT LEVEL TAMALE

NEXT LEVEL TAMALE

A new generation of Economic Zones
“Tamale Tooni Tibui”

Participants

Paula ADWOA OSEI-GYAMERAH (Ghana)
Paxwell ATANGA (Ghana)
Lydia AWENTIIRIM AWUMBIISI (Ghana)
Fizzo CHIDAKWA (Zambia)
Manon DESTRUEL (France)
Salahudeen MOHAMMED (Ghana)

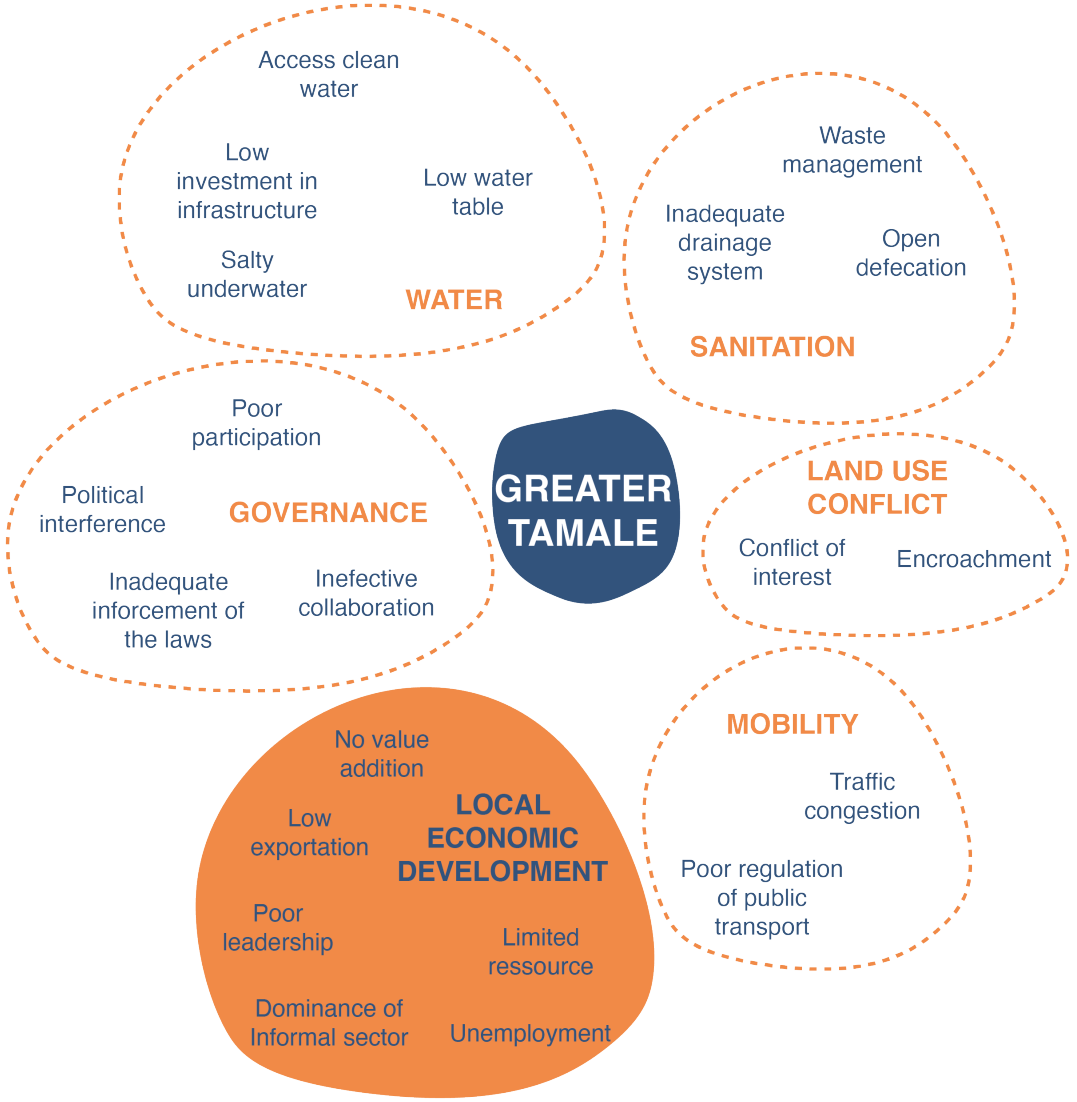
Observations from the ground

The key challenges identified in Greater Tamale span Governance challenges such as weak collaboration and limited enforcement which affect effective urban management, while traffic congestion and poorly regulated public transport hinder connectivity and mobility.

Water and sanitation issues, including inadequate drainage and open defecation, limited access to clean water and poor waste management, continue to impact public health and environmental sustainability.

Land use conflicts, arising from encroachment and competing land interests further constrain orderly urban development, among others.

While these issues are interconnected and require coordinated interventions to support sustainable urban growth, this proposal focuses on local economic development as a catalyst for creating jobs, increasing value addition for larger markets and export as well as driving inclusive economic transformation.



Issues of Greater Tamale



Weaving process - Manon

Introduction

The region is rich in natural resources, from agricultural products, traditional knowledge to entrepreneurial energy. Yet, despite this abundance, these resources generate limited local wealth, sustainable employment, and long-term economic growth.

The challenge is therefore not to produce more, but to create more value from what already exists. Today, many products leave the territory with little or no processing, fragmented value chains, weak market connections, and opportunities for storage as well as limited transformation, branding, and commercialization.

While Tamale faces pressing challenges related to water, land governance, sanitation, and public services, strengthening local value chains offers a cross-cutting opportunities to address several of these issues simultaneously. By connecting producers, processors, traders, entrepreneurs, financial institutions, consumers and other relevant stakeholders, the territory can foster innovation, create jobs, generate higher household incomes and build a more resilient and inclusive local economy.

Tamale does not lack resources, it needs value addition.

How can local natural resources of northern Ghana drive sustainable, social, and economic development? How can we add value in a sustainable and competitive way?

Several Local Economic Development (LED) groups already exist within the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly through initiatives under the SOCO Project and the Ghana Productive Safety Net Project (GPSNP). In 2021, the Metropolitan Assembly also launched a marketplace to support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in agribusiness and food services. The facility provides shared services, including food processing, packaging, marketing and regulatory support, with the aim of formalising and strengthening informal enterprises.

Despite these initiatives, many producer groups continue to face challenges, including weak organisation and coordination, limited access to start-up and growth capital, and inadequate technical and business development training. These constraints limit their ability to scale production, improve competitiveness and fully realise their economic potential.

Resources from Northern Ghana

Groundnuts (peanuts) / Northern Ghana accounts for 94% of the country's annual groundnut production, with about 500,000 metric tons (MT) produced yearly across roughly 400,000 ha. Over 650,000 households, that is about 74% of all households in Northern Ghana grow groundnuts, and farmers value it above maize or sorghum for its profitability. Nationally, Ghana produces around 611,000 MT of groundnuts a year, making it the country's main cash crop for many smallholders. Yields remain low relative to potential: farm yields average about 0.9 MT/ha against an attainable 2.5 MT/ha, largely due to declining soil fertility and disease pressure.

Soya beans / Northern Ghana produces about 96% of the country's soybeans, though yields average only around 3 MT/ha due to poor land development and limited input access. About 90% of soya is produced in the north and then shipped south for processing – most crushing/oil-mill capacity sits in the Ashanti and Bono & Ahafo regions. National production rose from 74,800 MT in 2008 to 176,670 MT in 2018, and the country's realistic potential is estimated at 700,000 MT/year. Tamale is a hub for contract farming : one exporter contracted a nucleus farmer in Tamale to mobilize about 30,000 farmers over five years, supplying non-GMO soybean for Turkish and Chinese markets.

Rice / Northern Region is Ghana's leading paddy-producing region, contributing 28% of national output, and together with Volta and Upper East it produces 72% of the country's total rice. Northern Region covered nearly 21% of national rice-planted area in 2020, and an estimated 10% of Ghana's farming households depend on rice for employment. Ghana still imports heavily: domestic consumption runs 1.2–1.4 million tonnes against local production capacity of only around 600,000 MT (about 47% of demand).

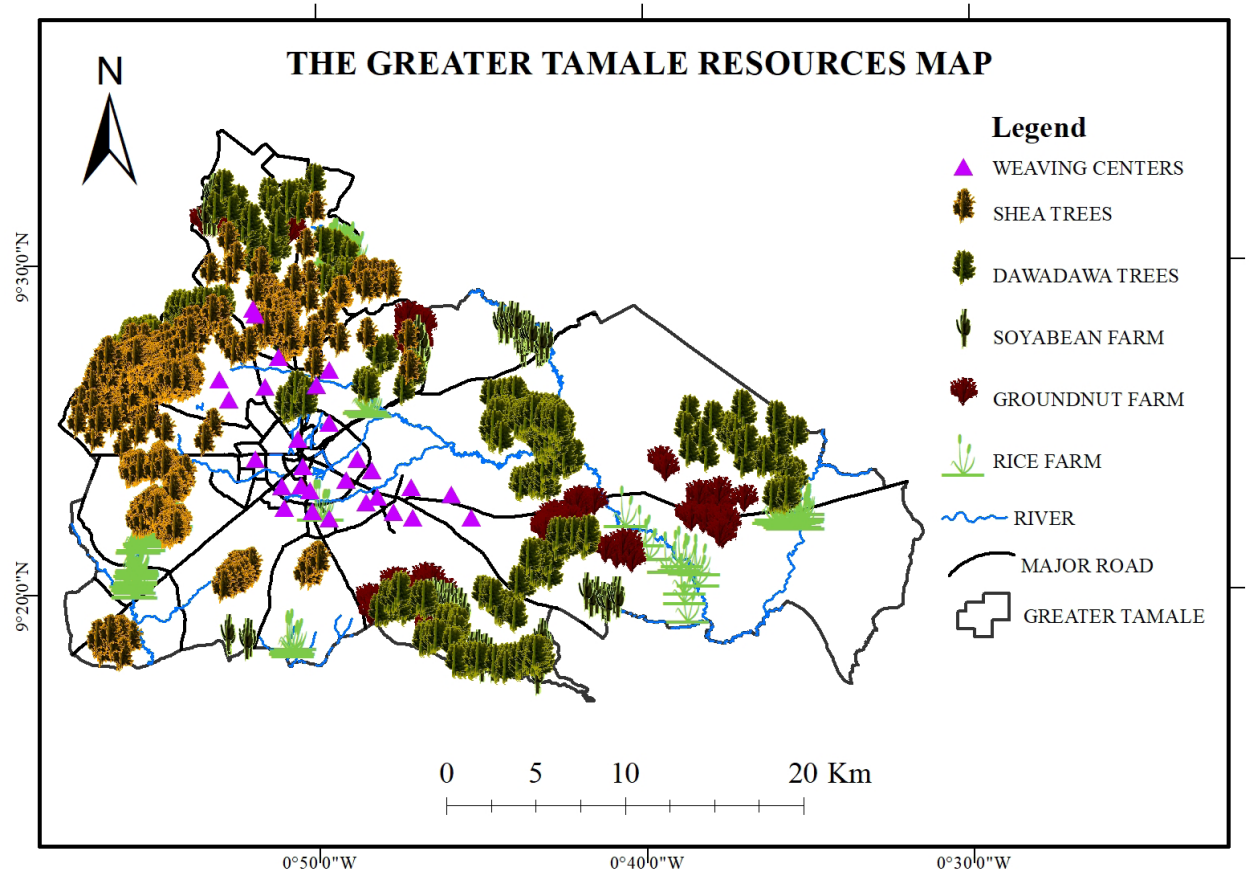
Smock / weaving (fugu) / The smock industry is concentrated specifically in Greater Tamale and remains largely traditional and structured around inherited weaving skills passed down informally. A Tamale-focused study surveyed 272 respondents – 120 merchants, 50 weavers, 100 users, and two institutions – and concluded the industry survives competition from mass-market textiles mainly because of its cultural significance. Government support is thin: only 2% of surveyed producers were even aware of trade initiatives

Dawadawa (fermented locust bean) /Made from the seeds of the African locust bean tree (Parkia biglobosa), dawadawa is a women-led, small-scale fermentation industry – women's groups in Dagomba communities identified the tree as culturally central to food security. A national sampling study collected dawadawa specifically from Aboabo Market in Tamale as one of six representative markets across Ghana, distinguishing Tamale's output as «commercial» production compared to smaller-scale «domestic» household production elsewhere.

SHEA BUTTER

Africa produces roughly 60% of the world's shea nuts, with Ghana ranking among the top five producers alongside Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, and Côte d'Ivoire. More than 80% of shea value-chain activities in the region are carried out by women, and a Tamale-specific study found women make up 97.4% of butter processors. The sector supports over 600,000 women across northern Ghana, though the Covid-19 pandemic hit these informal, women-led enterprises hard, disrupting production, labour, profitability and market access. On the technical side, processing is input-heavy: roughly 86kg of kernel, 305 litres of water, 50 kg of fuelwood and 15 hours of labour yield about 30 kg of shea butter.





Ressources of Greater Tamale - Paxwell

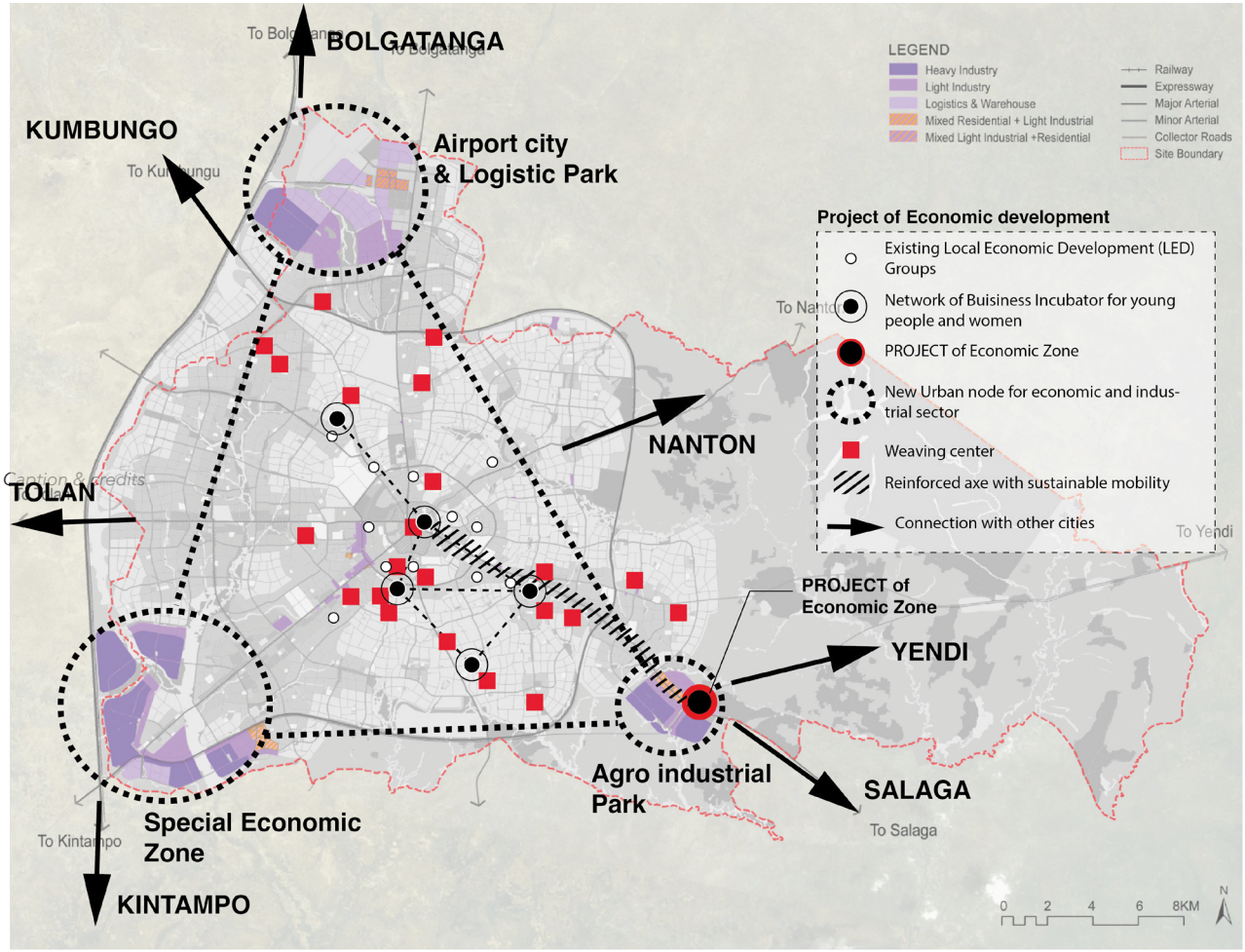
Economic commodities in Greater Tamale / The designated commodities—shea nuts, dawadawa, rice, soya beans, and smock weaving—collectively form the bedrock of the informal and formal economy in the Greater Tamale area, driving rural industrialization, cultural tourism, and poverty alleviation. Together, they represent an integrated socio-economic system that balances agricultural exploitation of the savanna parkland with indigenous manufacturing.

Production shapes the landscape

In Northern Ghana, the landscape is a direct expression of its productive systems. Rice fields shape the valleys, shea parklands punctuate the savannah, and seasonal crops define the rhythm and structure of the territory. Each resource generates a distinct geography, shaped by agricultural cycles, local knowledge, and the infrastructure that support production.
Rethinking the economic zone therefore means understanding production not merely as an economic activity, but as a driving force that shapes the landscape, reveals the territory's resources, and creates new relationships between agriculture, economy, and settlement.



Urban agriculture - Manon



Based on Northern Savannah Ecological Zone I Greater Tamale Metropolitan Area (GTMA) Structure Plan Report - Fig.6.17 Proposed Industrial Plan
Economical development part is the team proposal

Vision 2050 : the new Tamale

Recognising the city's economic potential, the Greater Tamale Metropolitan Area (GTMA) Structure Plan envisions Tamale as a City of Vibrant Economy through the development of a network of specialised industrial clusters. The Plan proposes three complementary industrial hubs: a Special Economic Zone to attract manufacturing and industrial investment, an Airport City & Logistics Hub to facilitate logistics, warehousing and regional trade, and an Agribusiness & Agro-processing Hub to promote value addition to locally produced agricultural commodities. Together, these industrial clusters are intended to drive industrialisation, employment creation and sustainable economic transformation across the metropolis.

Our proposal builds on the Agribusiness & Agro-processing Hub by creating a shared space where local entrprenuers can grow together. Instead of each small business operating on its own, the Economic Zone will bring together priority value chains.

The business Incubator like a prototype for the Local Economic Zone

This is to create one ecosystem where businesses can share facilities, reduce costs and have access larger markets and credit facilities. This will also solve the issue of exploitation of women who operate in the hinterlands in relation to their pricing but setting price floors and easy access to certification like fairtrade and organic certification.

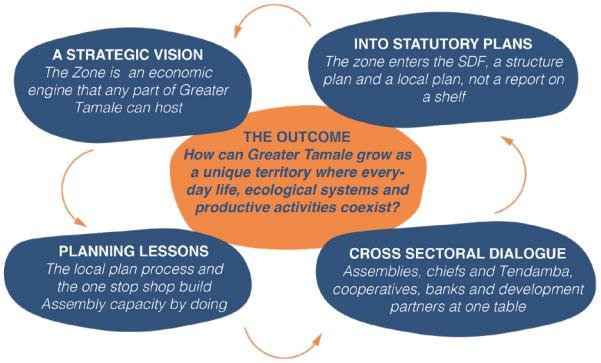
The bottom up local economic zone

Economic development begins where people already produce. The city becomes the infrastructure that connects people, knowledge and opportunities. Rather than moving producers to the economy, we bring the economy to producers.

From Resources to Value

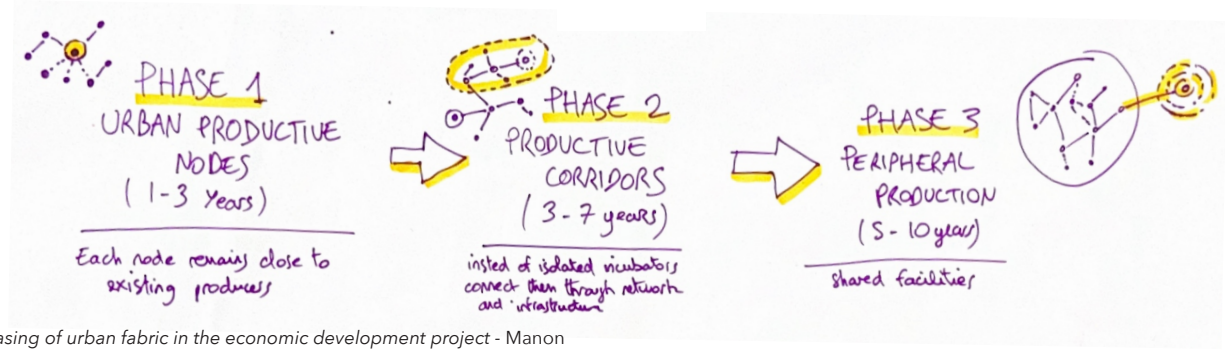
Our proposal aims to unlock this existing capacity rather than introduce an external economic model. The project begins by strengthening what already exists, particularly the informal sector and the most vulnerable groups. Local incubators are established around existing production clusters, providing access to shared equipment, training, business support and innovation. These spaces enable producers to increase the quality, value and competitiveness of their products while remaining rooted in their communities.
As these incubators grow, they form a connected network where knowledge, skills and opportunities circulate across the territory. This collaborative ecosystem strengthens local value chains, encourages entrepreneurship and creates new economic opportunities, particularly for young people and women.
Ultimately, this network supports the development of an open new Economic Zone on the outskirts of Tamale. Rather than a conventional industrial zone, it is conceived as a productive urban district where businesses, education, innovation and public life coexist. It becomes both an economic engine and a new urban destination.
More than an economic strategy, this project is a vision for territorial transformation. By adding value to local resources, strengthening local capacities, informal sector and connecting people through a shared network, Tamale can build a more resilient, inclusive future. The future of Tamale lies not in importing new resources, but in unlocking the value of those it already holds.

The economic zone can be a demonstrator for the territory's transition





Phasing of project - Fizzo



Phasing of urban fabric in the economic development project - Manon

Learning from Africa

The review of economic zones across Africa demonstrates that the next generation of economic development is no longer defined solely by industrial production or investment attraction. The most ambitious projects are redefining economic zones as integrated ecosystems that combine economic competitiveness, innovation, environmental sustainability, and social value.

Several key lessons emerge from this benchmark. Successful economic zones are those that foster complete value chains rather than isolated industrial activities. They integrate advanced logistics, research and innovation, skills development, business services, and high-quality infrastructure to create environments that attract investment while strengthening local economic resilience. At the same time, they are increasingly designed around principles of circularity, low-carbon development, renewable energy, efficient resource management, and stronger connections with surrounding cities and communities.

The benchmark also highlights the limitations of first-generation economic zones. Models based solely on fiscal incentives or low-cost manufacturing often struggle to generate long-term competitiveness, local economic spillovers.

These lessons provide the foundation for the vision proposed for Tamale. Rather than replicating existing models, the ambition is to design a new generation economic zone: a productive, climate-resilient, and innovation-driven ecosystem that leverages the strategic assets of Northern Ghana while positioning Tamale as a regional hub for sustainable industrialization, value creation, and inclusive economic growth.







BENCHMARK

RWANDA, Kigali zone
In a landlocked economy, firms inside the zone recorded markedly higher output and employment than comparable firms outside.

BENIN, Glo Djigbe zone
Processes Beninese cotton, cashew and soya that once left the country raw, the closest analogue to Tamale's commodity base.

ETHIOPIA, Hawassa park
Built a garment export industry and tens of thousands of jobs, and warns against depending on a single export market.

MAURITIUS, export zones
A small economy used zones to move from raw sugar into manufacturing and services, the classic proof of value addition.

ZAMBIA, Lusaka Special Economic Zone
In a landlocked economy, firms inside the facilty are economically viable and grow faster.

MOROCCO, Tanger Med
Corridor and port connection turned zones into the base of the country's leading export industry, location on a corridor matters

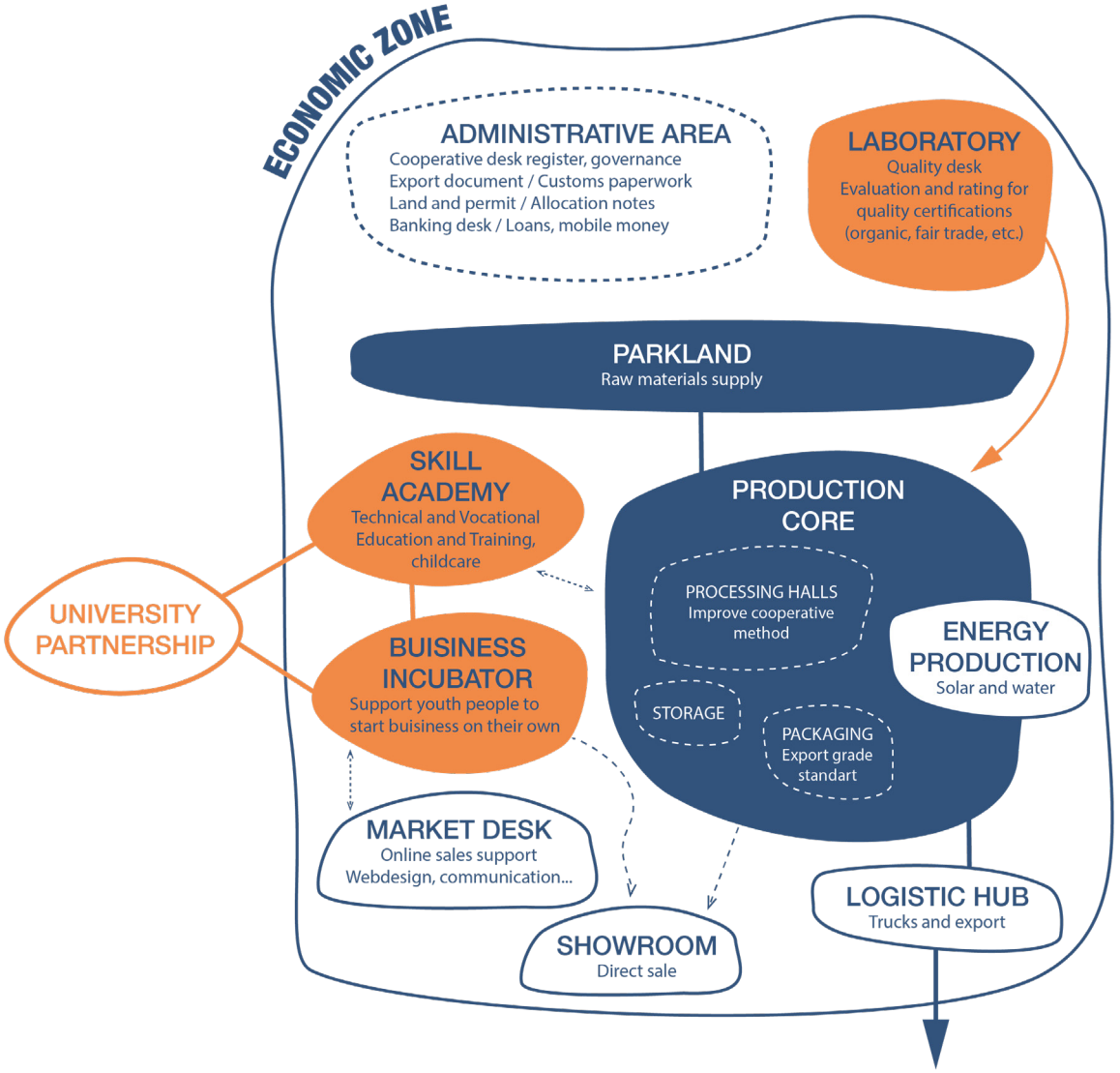
Illustration 1 : Tanger Med, free trade zone
Illustration 2 : Lusaka multifacilities economic zone
Illustration 3 : Kigali special economic zone

Functioning of the economic zone model

The proposed model is an economic ecosystem featuring all the services necessary for business within the economic zone.

The Skills Academy is a program for learning techniques and know-how especially for women and passing them on to younger generations. Preserving traditional knowledge—such as weaving or the processing of raw materials—is of great importance.
An integrated laboratory enables research and experimentation on the products. It is essential for product certification—for instance, to meet export standards.
A digital marketing team is on-site to improve communication around the products. Digital communication is essential for showcasing the products.
A logistics hub completes the setup for distribution within the country or worldwide.

Urban incubators are not just places to start businesses, they are catalysts for transforming informal potential into an inclusive and resilient local economy.



Roadmap & social impact

2027 – Identify & Strengthen Existing LED Groups
Social Impact: Builds stronger community networks, improves collaboration and gives local producers and entrepreneurs a stronger collective voice.

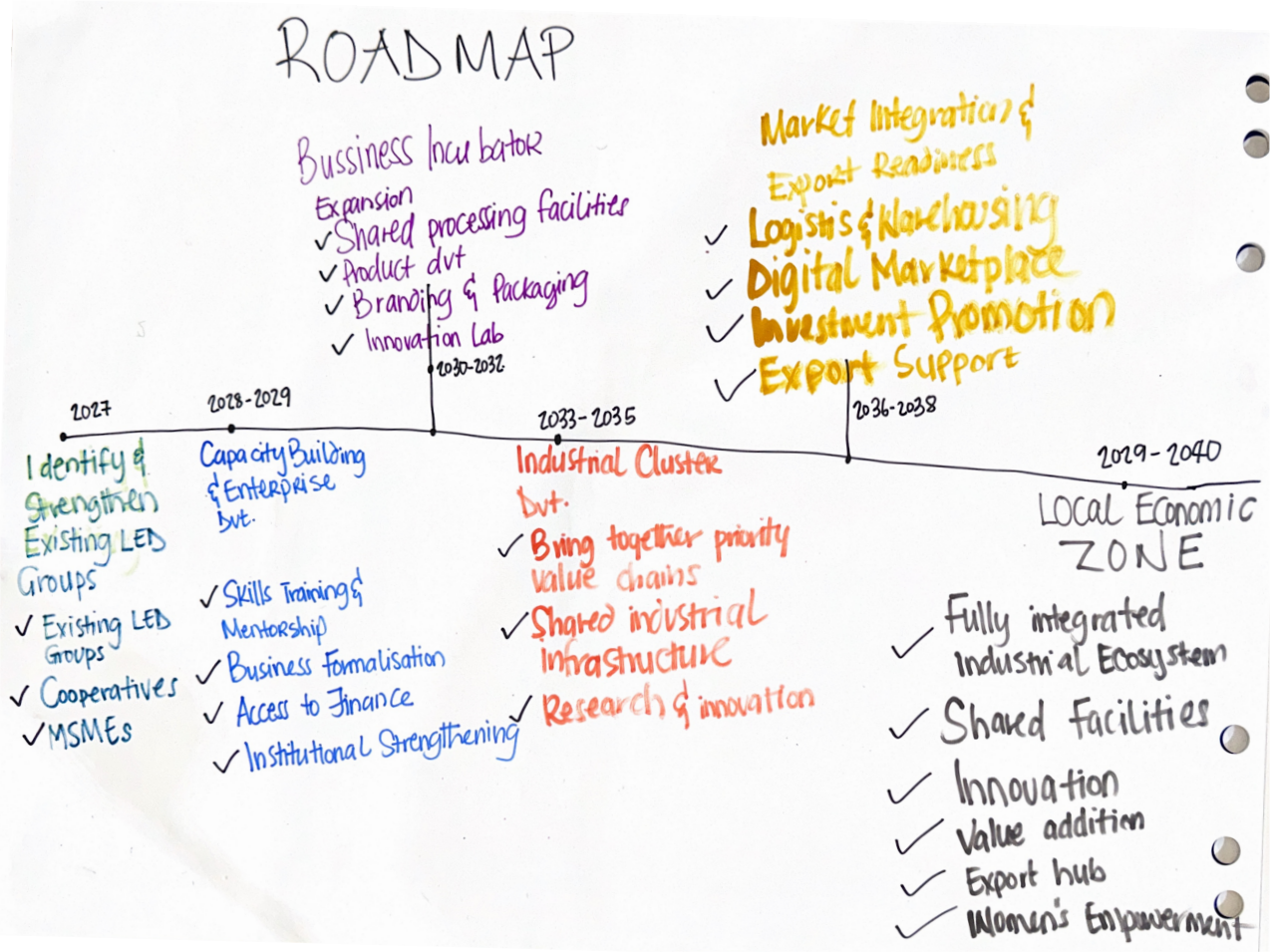
2028–2029 – Capacity Building & Enterprise Development
Social Impact: Empowers women and youth with the skills and confidence to grow sustainable businesses, increase household incomes and create employment opportunities within their communities.

2030–2032 – Scale the Business Incubator into an Enterprise Hub
Social Impact: Reduces production costs, improves product quality and enables small businesses to become more competitive and resilient.

2033–2035 – Develop the Local Enterprise Cluster
Social Impact: Strengthens local enterprises, creates new jobs and increases opportunities for producers, processors and SMEs to participate in larger value chains.

2036–2038 – Strengthen Market Access & Export Readiness
Social Impact: Expands market opportunities, increases incomes for local producers and creates employment in logistics, marketing and business services.

2039–2040 – Establish the Local Enterprise Economic Zone
Social Impact: Positions Greater Tamale as Northern Ghana's leading agro-industrial hub, creating sustainable employment, empowering women and youth, attracting investment and improving livelihoods across the metropolis.



Roadmap to the local economic zone - Paula

“Tamale Tooni Tibui” Tamale to the next level

The proposed Local Enterprise Economic Zone adopts a bioclimatic design approach that responds to Tamale’s semi-arid climate by using natural systems to reduce heat and minimises energy consumption.

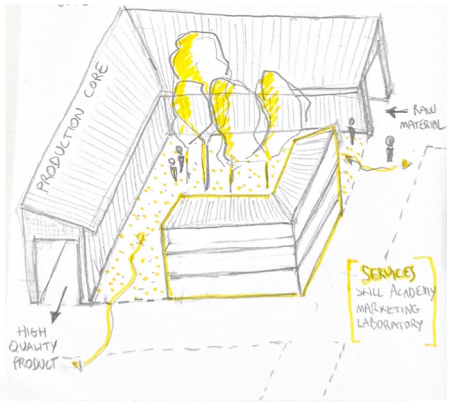
The facility is designed with its own rainwater harvesting system, which collects water from the roof and channels it into a larger reservoir. This reservoir supports a natural cooling system, where water helps reduce surrounding temperatures and contributes to passive air conditioning within the facility.

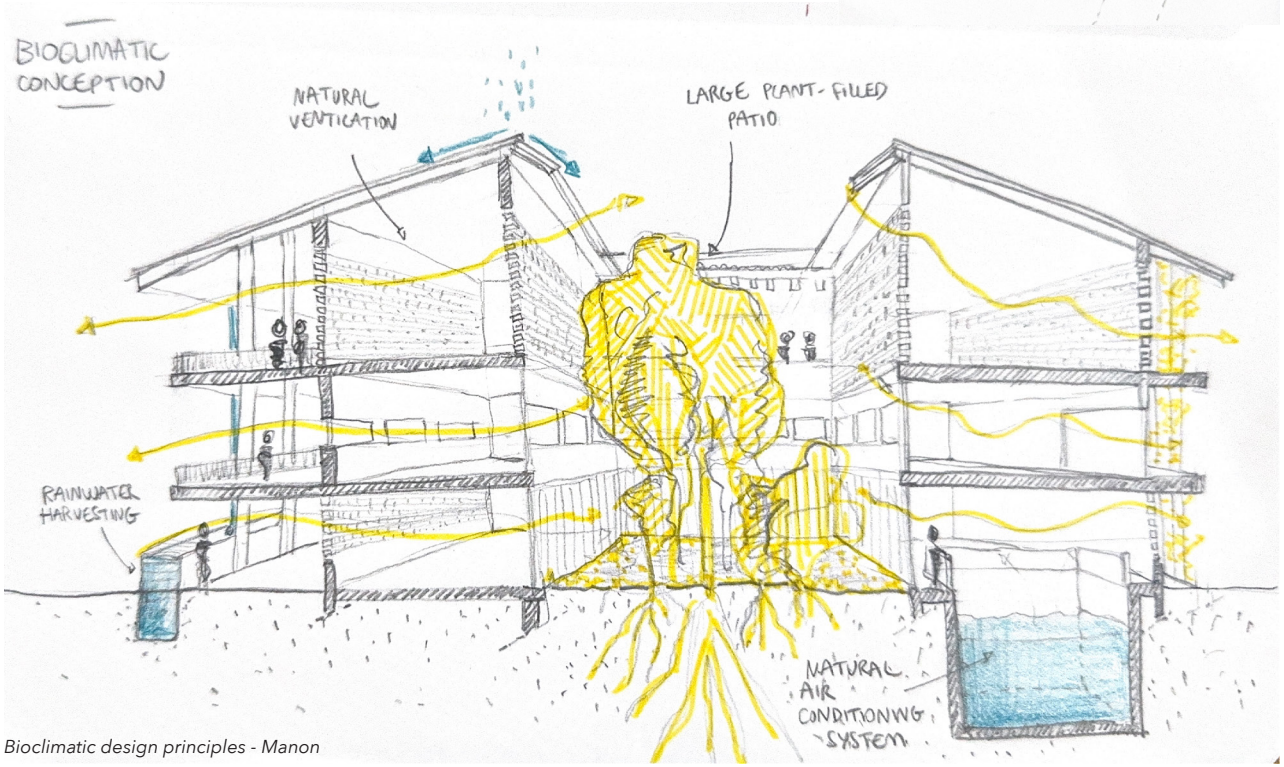
The building is organized around a landscaped courtyard that creates a favorable microclimate through shading and evapotranspiration. The trees and open green space allow fresh air to circulate naturally through the buildings, while also improving the working environment for producers, traders and visitors.

Designing with climate, not against it and reinterpreting vernacular architecture for a sustainable future. The economic zone can be a climate-responsive workplace for Northern Ghana.

The building envelope is constructed from earthen materials, whose high thermal mass moderates diurnal temperature fluctuations and improves indoor thermal comfort. This contemporary reinterpretation of vernacular construction principles, combined with an efficient spatial organization, meets the functional requirements of a productive building within an economic zone while minimizing energy demand.

This makes the zone more sustainable, comfortable and climate-responsive, while reducing dependence on mechanical cooling systems.





Bioclimatic design principles - Manon

04 THE RESTITUTION



RESTITUTION DAY

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026
TAMALE METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY

The international urban workshop culminates in the final restitution, during which the participant teams share their work from the past ten days to a panel of guests of honour. The panel comprises a range of local and international experts, including elected representatives, local and traditional authorities, Sustainable Cities project stakeholders, academics, non-profit organisations, private practitioners, and representatives from the six cities of the programme.

A diverse panel aims to ensure the momentum of the ideas beyond the workshop. The role of the panel members is to foster a constructive discussion around the teams' proposals. The objective is not to award a specific team, but to lead a debate to identify the most relevant, appropriate and innovative strategies, and to consider how these proposals could open visions and new perspectives for Greater Tamale and the other cities of Northern Ghana, and how these visions can be strengthened and carried forward into the planning documents.



Abdulai Imoro Gong

Municipal Chief Executive, Sagnarigu Municipal Assembly



CASTRO Yakubu Yussif

Municipal Chief Executive, West Gonja Municipal Assembly



MUNIRU Sugri

Municipal Chief Executive, Yendi Municipal Assembly



AYOO Roland Atanga

Municipal Chief Executive, Bolgatanga Municipal Assembly



ABUBAKARI Abdul Jabir

Assembly member for Nyohini North



TAKORO Adam Abubakar

Municipal Chief Executive, Tamale Metropolitan Assembly



Nurah Issah Danwaana

Municipal Chief Executive, Wa Municipal Assembly



BUKARI Bariche David

Municipal Chief Executive, East Mamprusi Municipal Assembly



YAKUBU Hamza

Assembly member for Nyohini South



MAHAMA Iddrisu

Lamashegu Naa



AMPONSAH Owusu

Component 2 Lead,
Expertise France



ABUBAKARI SADIK Mohammed

District Manager,
Forestry Commission,
Northern Region



ADAMTEY Ronald

Director, Tamale Campus,
Institute of Local
Governance



TAKORA Saaka

Regional director,
Land and Spatial and
Planning Authority



MATIN Mohammed

Deputy Speaker,
Tamale Youth parliament



ABDULAI Mohammed

Nyohini Naa



MWANGU Isaac

Northern Regional
Economic Development
Planning Officer,
Ministry of Local
Government, Chieftaincy
and Religious Affairs



SAGITO Alima

Executive Director,
SWIDA GHANA



DAWUNI Peter

Regional manager,
Zoomlion



KABUGI Edwin

Urban planner,
International expert



BRAHIMA Rachid Soale

Regional director,
Ghana Water Limited,
Northern Region



ABDALLAH Safura

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Officer, URBANET



SOKENG FEUYEM Horcel

Urban designer, International expert













LESSON DAY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

RED CLAY STUDIO

6-CITY URBAN PLANNING COLLECTIVE WORK

As the Sustainable Cities Project seeks to support 6 target cities of Northern Ghana – Greater Tamale Area, Wa, Damongo, Nalerigu, Bolgatanga and Yendi – Les Ateliers built a specific program to create an inter-city dynamic and draw lessons from the workshop for the 6 cities urban planning processes. Beyond its focus on Tamale, the workshop was designed to build an inter-city dynamic, drawing lessons that can inform planning processes across all 6 cities. In this spirit, the last day of the workshop brought together the 7 MCEs and planners from across the program for a dedicated meeting, marking a first step towards a shared understanding of the urban planning process and laying the foundations for future activities and workshops in each of the cities.

City representatives:

- Bolgatanga Municipal Assembly - George K. Ainooson, Senior Town Planning Officer
- East Mamprusi Municipal Assembly - Mathias N. Manlokiya, Physical Planning Officer
- Wa Municipal Assembly - Yakubu Zakaria, Physical Planning Officer
- Yendi Municipal Assembly - Iddrisu Abdul, Physical Planning Officer
- West Gonja Municipal Assembly - Abubakari Zakari Bob, Physical Planning Officer

PROGRAMME

09:30am

Debate on the previous day's presentations

10:30am

Open exchange with the six-city representatives
Key findings, innovations, and high-impact actions
Short presentation of the 6 cities and their challenges by the city's planner

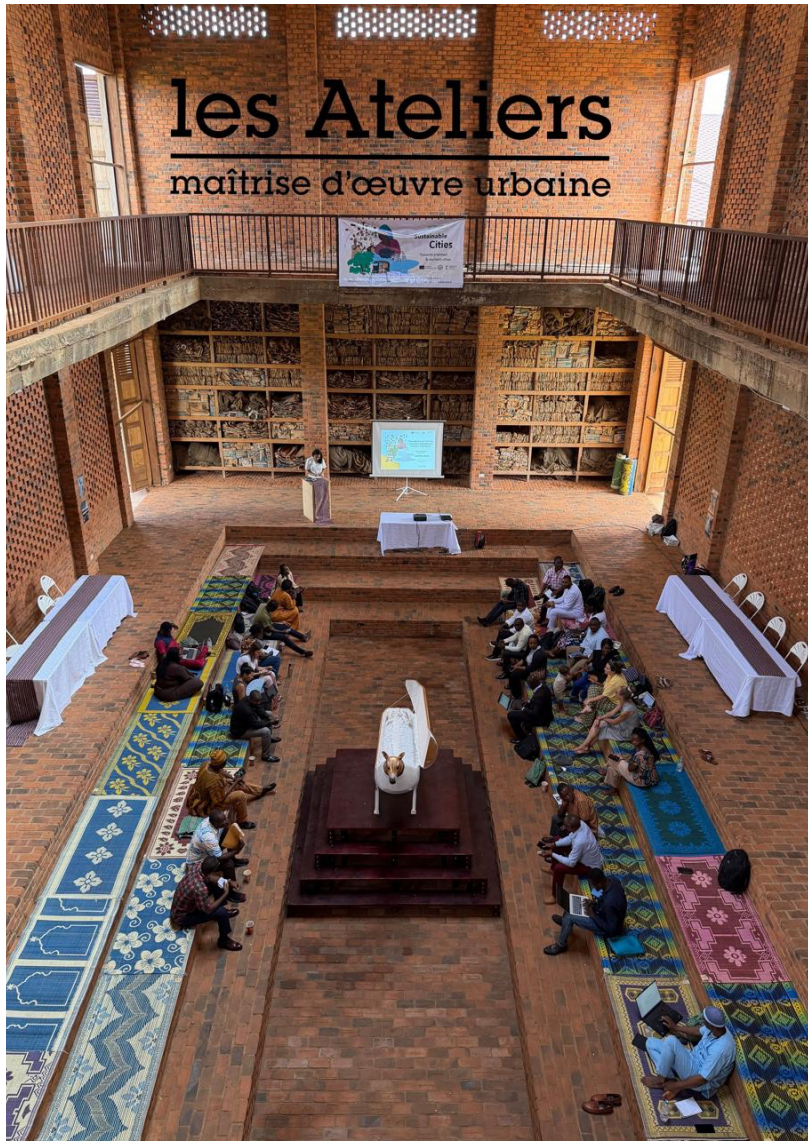
Feedback on the workshop proposals, discussion on what may be transferable

11:30am

Working groups: Lessons Learned

Analyses and findings that may inform reflections and decision-making in your city




les Ateliers
maîtrise d'œuvre urbaine









05 THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOP



TEAM A



AKEMDAGA AMOAH Dennis

Ghana

Development Planner, MLGCRA

dennis.amoah@mlgcra.gov.gh

Dennis Akemdaga Amoah is a Development Planner at the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, specializing in urban, rural, and spatial planning. He holds a BSc in Human Settlement Planning from KNUST and is pursuing an MPhil in Development Policy and Planning there. His experience spans public sector planning, project supervision, and academia. Passionate about informality and inclusive urban development, his research focuses on informal settlements, the informal economy, and informal systems in Ghana's urban development.



DAKYAGA Francis

Ghana

Lecturer, UBIDS (Wa, Ghana)

dakyaga@ubids.edu.gh

I am a passionate urbanist, academic, lecturer, consultant and researcher interested in urban planning and governance, infrastructure, informality, and climatic risk and resilience, with over 30 publications in peer-reviewed journals. I believe every village is a potential urban enclave whose development requires spatial planning principles. Ghanaian cities, like others in the Global South, remain destinations for all, shaping human health and safety. Looking forward to this engagement.



OFORI Eric Arthur

Ghana

Principal Development Planning Officer

ericofart@yahoo.com

I am a Principal Development Planning Officer at the Northern Regional Coordinating Council (NRCC) with over 16 years' experience in Ghana's local government system, representing NRCC on the Sustainable Cities 1 Project. Specialized in development planning with vast experience in sustainable urban development. Member of the Ghana Institute of Planners and an award-winning impact-maker in urban waste management (Sanitation Challenge for Ghana, 2015-2019, Bimbilla). I work effectively across diverse cultural backgrounds, and am adaptive, honest, and proactive.



TOYIBU Abdul-Hamid

Ghana

Development Planning Officer, Sagnarigu Municipal Assembly

abdul.toyibu@sagma.gov.gh

I am Toyibu Abdul-Hamid. I am a Development Planning Officer. I work with local government for 20 years. I currently work at Sagnarigu Municipal Assembly, part of the Greater Tamale Area.



SOLNICKÀ Michaela

Czech Republic / Burkina Faso

Lead Architect

studio@ananas.bf

Visual artist, designer and architect of Czech origin, based in Burkina Faso since 2012. She co-initiated unlimited-JCA, an experimental, pro-bono architecture studio within Jakub Cigler Architekti, focused on low-tech methods using locally resourced energy and materials, delivering collaborative creative projects with socio-cultural visionaries in Ethiopia, Ghana and Burkina Faso. In 2023 she founded Studio Ananas to explore composition and regeneration further. She continues inventing opportunities to foster solidarity, openness and trust within communities.



YOSEPH Samrawit

Ethiopia

Consultant

y.samrawit@gmail.com

I am an Architect and Urbanist specializing in city-wide assessments and evidence-based strategic planning across Ethiopia and Africa. With over 12 years of experience, my recent work focuses on urban diagnostics and action-oriented development. I am a firm advocate for nature-based solutions and systems thinking in design. Lately, my practice has evolved to prioritize co-creation and co-design, ensuring that urban interventions are both inclusive and sustainable. I aim to bring this integrated, collaborative approach to this workshop.

TEAM B



ASAMOAH ASARE Owuraku

Ghana

Development Planner, MLGCRA

owuraku.asare@mlgcra.gov.gh

Owuraku Asamoah Asare is a Development Planner with the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, serving in the Rural and Urban Development Unit under the Local Governance and Decentralisation Directorate. His work focuses on policy formulation, data collection, and monitoring and implementation of national development programmes. He holds a bachelor's degree in development planning and a master's in project management from KNUST, with interests in urban planning, GIS and spatial analysis, and environmental sustainability.



CARNEIRO FERNANDES Paulo

Portugal

Architect

paulo.c@cas-at.com

Architect specialized in earth construction, bio-based materials and informal systems. Founder of CAS Studio, an ecological architecture practice based in Lisbon. Through work in Mozambique and Cairo, I developed Reedcob, merging vernacular knowledge with contemporary resilience. My approach translates complex territorial dynamics into implementable spatial strategies. For Tamale, I aim to design "Resilience Anchors": small-scale infrastructures linking water, production and community systems. With previous Les Ateliers experience, I contribute cross-cultural mediation and frugal, high-impact solutions.



JIBREEL Mohammed Basit

Ghana

Executive Director of URBANET

kindbasit@gmail.com

I am a dedicated development practitioner with over seventeen years of experience supporting rural communities to improve livelihoods, strengthen resilience, and promote sustainable socio-economic development. My work focuses on designing and implementing community-centered initiatives that enhance income generation, food security, social inclusion, and well-being for marginalized populations. Through capacity building, community mobilization, sustainable agriculture, and livelihood diversification, I empower rural households to access greater social and economic opportunities.



MUGARURA Martha

Uganda

Assistant Commissioner Urban Development

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Martha Mugarura Nyakato is a public civil servant working with Government of Uganda. She is a registered physical planner under the society of physical planners of Uganda. She has experience in policy and regulatory formulation, climate change resilience, metropolitan planning and urban management. Martha is committed to her work and keen to collaborate with other experts to contribute her lived experience in urban planning and management to the workshop being prepared to shape Greater Tamale in Northern Ghana.



NIELAKUU Pamphilio

Ghana

Physical planner, Tamale Metropolitan Assembly

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Pln. Pamphilio Nielakuu is a Ghanaian from Tizza, Upper West Region, now based in Tamale, Northern Region. Married and committed to professional excellence and sustainable urban development, he has over fifteen years' experience in Ghana's Local Governance Service, primarily as a Physical Planner and Head of Physical Planning Departments.. He has worked with the Yendi Municipal Assembly, Savelugu Municipal Assembly, and currently the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly, contributing to urban planning, land-use management, and sustainable city development.



OWUSU Mary-Ama

Ghana

Urban Development Enthusiast

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I am a Ghanaian with a background in Urban Management, Geography, and Sociology. I am interested in sustainable urban development, spatial planning, GIS, community engagement, and inclusive city growth. Through my academic training and practical experience in surveying, mapping, and project coordination, I have developed strong analytical and teamwork skills. I enjoy working in multicultural environments and I am passionate about contributing to practical and sustainable solutions that improve urban resilience and the quality of life in cities and communities.

TEAM C



ATANGA Paxwell

Ghana

Physical planner, Sagnarigu Municipal Assembly

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I am a dedicated, results-oriented physical planner with extensive knowledge and practical experience in spatial planning, land use management, and sustainable development. My approach combines strategic thinking, analytical problem-solving, and a commitment to innovative planning solutions, strengthened through continuous professional development and participation in numerous workshops and trainings. I am committed to upholding high professional standards and contributing to well-organized, resilient, sustainable communities that promote balanced socio-economic growth and environmental stewardship.



AWENTIRIIM AWUMBISII Lydia

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Leadership and Development Associate

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I am a development practitioner from Northern Ghana with over four years of experience in community development, programme management, gender advocacy, and stakeholder engagement. My work focuses on creating inclusive solutions for underserved communities through research, monitoring and evaluation, and participatory approaches. I am passionate about sustainable development, youth empowerment, and climate resilience, and interested in how governance, ecological systems, and local realities shape equitable urban growth and community wellbeing.



CHIDAKWA Fizzo

Zambia

Chief Housing Officer and Local Economic Development Lead

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I am a Zambian urban development practitioner leading housing, land-tenure, and local economic development programmes at Kabwe Municipal Council, a rapidly expanding secondary city comparable to Greater Tamale. My work spans informal-settlement upgrading for 1,300 residents, environmental safeguards across 14 settlements, and metropolitan governance coordination. I hold an MSc from Erasmus University Rotterdam and postgraduate qualifications from King's College London, bringing an African practitioner's perspective at the intersection of informality, ecology, and governance.



DESTRUEL Manon

France

Territorial planning project manager

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Architect and project manager in public projects, I develop an approach to urban design grounded in careful territorial analysis, negotiation, and close attention to social dynamics. My international experience (Latin America, Africa, Indian Ocean) has led me to move beyond Western frameworks and engage with complex, hybrid systems. I combine analytical thinking, strategic vision, and operational delivery, using drawing as a tool to understand, communicate, and support the transformation of territories.



OSEI-GYAMERAH Paula

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Paula Osei-Gyamerah is a Development Planner with the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, where she serves in the Rural and Urban Development Unit under the Local Governance and Decentralisation Directorate. Her work focuses on urban development, planning, and sustainable urbanisation initiatives, supporting the formulation and implementation of national urban programmes and projects. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies and a Master's degree in Development Finance, with professional interests in urban planning, local governance, and sustainable development.



MOHAMMED Salahudeen

Ghana

Head of development Planning Unit, Tamale Metropolitan Assembly

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I am a development planning professional with over ten years' experience in Ghana's Local Government Service, leading the planning, implementation, and evaluation of development projects and programmes at district and municipal levels. I hold an M.Sc. in Local Economic Development from the Institute of Local Government Studies, Tamale, and a B.A. in Integrated Development Studies from the University for Development Studies. I am passionate about fostering sustainable socio-economic growth through strategic planning and community engagement.

LES ATELIERS' TEAM



VALENZUELA Véronique

France, Chile

Director of Les Ateliers

Geographer

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I'm Véronique, French and Chilean geographer. I have always been interested in the social and urban issues of large cities, first through the recovery of historical memory and the study of mechanisms of exclusion and socio-spatial segregation. My personal experience allowed me to discover and study urban and social dynamics of Latin America, Africa and Europe. I worked in public institutions and associations, and have been active in Ateliers since 2010 as an assistant-pilot, participant, coordinator, project manager, director of projects and director.



BROCHARD Simon

France

Director of projects

Geographer

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Geographer, urban planner, and historian, I am interested in city representations and the evolution of our lifestyles. I have worked in a middle school as a history and geography assistant teacher, but I spent more time organizing and facilitating international urban workshops these last years, involving local and international actors around complex urban and territorial issues. I also love making music and biking.



ADENKA Carole

France, Togo

Project coordinator

Geographer

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Captivated by urban life, I chose to study geography in order to better understand the environment around me, its social dynamics, and its power relations. I explored the notion of the right to the city through the concepts of social justice and spatial justice.
My personal and professional experience has also broadened my geographical horizons internationally, particularly in West Africa. I really enjoy exploring the city and taking photographs.
For the past year, I have been assisting Les Ateliers with scientific preparation and workshop organization.



KENSLEY Craig

South Africa

Social investment and local economic development

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Craig Kensley leads GrowZA, a social investment and strategy agency working across Southern Africa. His work centres on practical pathways for inclusive development and stronger community–institution collaboration.

GrowZA designs and activates civic architecture models that align policy, capital, and community intelligence. He also contributes to interdisciplinary research and development missions on adaptive policy and place-based innovation.



MSALLAK Hanaà

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Architect & Urban Designer

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Hanaà Msallak was born in Casablanca and trained in Paris, graduating from the Paris Val de Seine School of Architecture in 2008, then from the Ecole des Ponts ParisTech in design and management of integrated urban systems. Following her early career in Paris, she moved to Shanghai for the 2010 World Expo, where she spent over six years working with Chinese and British practices. Upon returning to Paris, she co-founded a studio with offices in Paris and Casablanca, bringing together architecture and urban design across a broad range of scales.

Hanaà also sits on the board of Les Ateliers de Cergy.

LES ATELIERS' TEAM



ABDULAI Abdul-Hamid

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Assistant-pilot

Lecturer and Researcher

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Abdulai Abdul-Hamid is my name. I am currently a PhD Candidate in Land Management and Governance from KNUST, Kumasi. I also hold a BSc Planning and an MPhil Development Management specializing in Land Use Planning from the University for Development Studies.
I have research interest in urban planning, land governance and community development.



SHAMSUDEEN Rashida

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Rashida is a youth advocate and community development enthusiast from Northern Ghana with interests in governance, sustainability, entrepreneurship, and social impact.

She is passionate about youth and women empowerment, stakeholder engagement, and creating inclusive development opportunities that contribute to resilient and sustainable communities within Greater Tamale and beyond.



MUSAH Mohamed

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Assistant-pilot

Urban mobility consultant

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Mohammed Musah is an urban mobility consultant and researcher from Ghana with expertise in sustainable transport, land use planning, and metropolitan governance. He has contributed to projects including GUMAP and currently serves as a SLOCAT-VREF Young Leader in Sustainable Transport, advancing research and policy dialogue on low-carbon transport in the Global South.

EXPERTISE FRANCE'S TEAM



DONNET Olivier

France

Director of Sustainable Cities Phase 1 Project

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Olivier Donnet is a senior expert in public governance, decentralization, and territorial development, with a degree in political science. He has over 30 years of experience in designing and managing international cooperation programs and in supporting institutional and territorial reforms. He has held senior management and high-level technical assistance positions in Africa, Vietnam, and Palestine, supporting central governments and local authorities. He is currently Director of the "Sustainable Cities – Phase 1" project in Ghana, implemented by Expertise France and funded by the EU.



BITTAR Diane

France

Project manager

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Trained as an architect and urban planner, Diane has built her career at the intersection of architectural design, urban development, and international cooperation. After gaining experience in an architectural firm and a local government, she joined the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Group. She initially worked at the AFD office in New Delhi on programs related to solid waste management, urban planning, and water and sanitation. Today, at Expertise France, she helps support urban development projects in Cameroon, Ghana, and Togo. These projects include the development of pilot initiatives, coordinated with efforts to strengthen local authorities, improve the governance of urban services, and support territorial strategies aimed at creating more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities.



RANGAMA Jihanne

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Jihane Rangama is a sustainable urban development professional with 15 years of experience designing, coordinating and implementing international cooperation projects. Her work focuses on access to urban services, local governance, waste management, water and sanitation. She has worked with international donors and cooperation agencies, NGOs, consultancies and social enterprises across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and France. She currently serves as Technical Coordinator for the EU-funded Sustainable Cities project in Ghana, overseeing technical planning, implementation, monitoring and partner coordination.



MAASOLE Eric-Emmanuel

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Field and Community Mobilization and Development Coordinator

Sustainable Cities Phase 1 Project

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I am Eric Emmanuel MAASOLE, a Ghanaian local governance and development practitioner with over twenty years of experience in urban and rural governance, decentralization, community development, and institutional capacity strengthening across Northern Ghana. My academic background in land economy, strategic planning and management, and community development has guided my work with numerous international development organizations and donor-funded projects in the region, where I have held both field-level and managerial responsibilities, including coordinating multi-stakeholder initiatives and leading capacity-building programs.



AMPONSAH Owusu

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Component 2 Lead

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Owusu Amponsah is an Associate Professor of Urban Planning at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), where he currently serves as the Head of the Centre for Settlements Studies. He is a scholar with strong academic credentials, holding a PhD in Planning, a Postgraduate Diploma in Land Management and Informal Settlements Regularisation, an MSc in Development Policy and Planning, and a BSc in Planning. Prof. Amponsah's research interests lie at the intersection of informal urbanism and sustainable, inclusive city development. His work has significantly shaped scholarly and policy debates on urban transformation in the Global South. He has published over 100 articles in reputable international journals, reaching a wide global audience of urban planning scholars and practitioners.








DENVELLA














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THANK YOU

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SHAPING GREATER TAMALE

TOWARDS A PLANNED AND RESILIENT METROPOLIS

INTERNATIONAL URBAN PLANNING WORKSHOP

FROM JUNE 29, TO JULY 9, 2026

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