

Shaping Greater Tamale: towards a planned and resilient metropolis

International urban planning workshop in Northern Ghana 29 June - 9 July 2026



A collaborative process of territorial dialogue

Les Ateliers is a non-profit association founded in 1982. It organizes **collaborative workshops** in France and internationally to support territorial development projects. Les Ateliers offers both a methodology and a platform for cities and their partners to define urban development strategies and identify promising initiatives. It also acts as a **catalyst for projects**, thanks to a long-term network of committed partners.

Each workshop **brings together rigorously selected professional volunteers from around the world and locally, representing a wide range of disciplines**. These workshops foster fresh perspectives, operate across multiple scales, transcend administrative boundaries, and invite a reimagining of territories to promote innovative, creative, and contextually relevant urban development—integrating both short- and long-term visions.



For over 40 years, Les Ateliers has organized more than 100 international workshops across multiple continents.

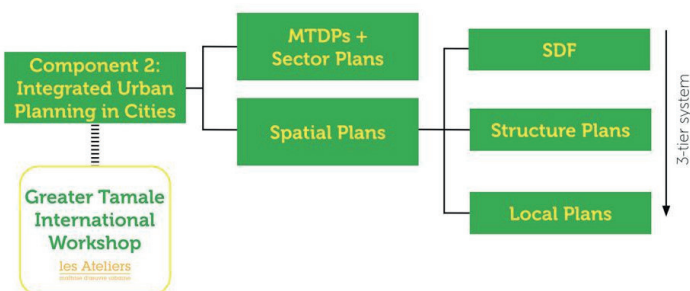


Images from previous workshops

The workshop as a key moment of the Sustainable Cities project

The **Sustainable Cities project is funded by the European Union, and implemented by Expertise France through the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs (MLGCRA)**. The project seeks to support six rapidly growing cities in Northern Ghana – Greater Tamale Area, Wa, Damongo, Nalerigu, Bolgatanga and Yendi – in advancing sustainable urban development and tackling challenges related to spatial growth and climate change.

Component 2 - Supporting Urban Planning in the 6 target cities, specifically aims at helping municipalities to develop or update urban and sectoral master plans as well as MTDPs.



Emphasis of the component is placed on **capacity-building activities** for Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies (MMAs), enhancing planning skills, fostering participatory planning, and ensuring alignment with national policies. The MTDP are prepared in line with the planning guidelines and national development policy framework, serving as a development road map, assessing current and future development needs and aspirations for the municipality.

The preparation and updating of statutory spatial plans – Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs), Structure Plans, and Local Plans – is critical to guide sustainable growth, optimise land use, coordinate infrastructure investment, and integrate climate resilience. The statutory spatial plans ensure a direct connection between national development objectives and the spatial realization of these aspirations. **The workshop is a crucial initiative to gather the different local stakeholders and to build a shared vision that will be integrated in the urban planning documents.**

The workshop topic

Shaping Greater Tamale: towards a planned and resilient metropolis

Tamale municipality + Sagnarigu municipality = Greater Tamale Metropolitan Area
Capital town of the Northern Region
3rd largest urban center in Ghana
Fast-growing metropolis | 810,622 inhabitants
Urban challenges: rapid urban sprawls, inefficient distribution of services (waste collection, water, electricity)

The workshop takes its root in reading **Greater Tamale’s territory as a bioregion, shaped by everyday life and movement**. The metropolis holds a strategic centrality in Northern Ghana and along the Accra-Ouagadougou corridor strengthens its role as a regional economic node within a wider network of secondary cities, market towns and rural production zones.

However, **its rapid urban growth, climate stress and inefficient distribution of services** – sanitation, water, and waste management – are intensifying pressures, unevenly distributed across the territory. Tamale’s territory is shaped through overlapping statutory and customary land systems, movement corridors and nodes, and shifting edges between built-up areas, agricultural land, wetlands, and open space.

To understand the complexity of land use, the workshop proposes to analyze Tamale through intertwined lenses: governance and planning, economies, and ecological systems. Within the Sustainable Cities project, the workshop aims to be a **catalyst for translating territorial insights into future planning and pilot actions**.

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

Sanitation, water, and waste management:

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

Shared spaces and gender-responsive design:

How to showcase collective shared spaces & strengthen gender responsive local identities?

Local economy and jobs:

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

Institutional learning:

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



Photos from the exploratory mission in Greater Tamale, February 2026

Outcomes from the workshop

- A **strategic vision for Greater Tamale**, practical tools, and actionable solution for Greater Tamale’s sustainable urban future, translated into the SDF structural plans and locals plans.
- **Urban planning lessons** and strengthened strategic planning capacity among the six cities
- Building a common understanding of the territory and its future development pathways trough the **production of several documents**
- **Cross-sectoral dialogue**, bringing together all stakeholders



The workshop agenda

International preparatory roundtable: June (tba)

29-30 June: **Immersion days** with site visits and stakeholder meetings

1 to 6 July: **Collaborative work** phase in interdisciplinary teams developing strategic urban proposals

7 July: **Restitution day** (presentations to a panel of representatives from Greater Tamale)

8-9 July: **Urban planning lessons**, a final work phase with the 6-city representatives and the planning consultancy firm



Images a from previous workshop in Cameroon

Engage in the collaborative process for the future of Greater Tamale

Become a participant

The workshop will bring together 15 selected participants from across the world, including 9 Ghanaian and local participants from Tamale and Sagnarigu.

Who can apply?

Professionals from all nationalities and disciplines with an interest on urban development (urban planning, economics, landscape, ecology, urban ecosystems, architecture, sociology, engineering, history, anthropology, hydrology, arts, etc.)

Participation details

- Full availability during the workshop dates (from 28 June to 9 July 2026)
- All participations costs are covered, including travel to Tamale, accommodation, regional transportation, organized visits, group meals, lectures etc. The participation is an unpaid opportunity.

How to apply

Read the «call for applications» (available from 17 April 2026 at www.ateliers.org), and send a CV, a letter of motivation, and a form by email to ghana@ateliers.org !

Contact

Internet website

www.ateliers.org

Email

ghana@ateliers.org

Take part as local partner

Each city takes an active role in organizing the workshop. Along with our local assistants, local focal points identified by the municipality will serve as a key contact throughout the process with missions such as:

- Prepare sites visits and presentation of the territory during the workshop
- Participate to the online roundtable discussion to see international best practices ahead of the workshop
- Provide key planning documents and connect our local assistants with relevant stakeholders to feed the context document
- Participate to locally anchored event: the mid-term Exchange Forum to see the presentation of the first ideas to local actors for feedback, the final restitution