YAW DARKWAH AMOATENG

Graduate Research Assistant | Ghana Wildlife Society

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RESEARCH INTEREST

Keen to research the impacts of anthropogenic and environmental factors on the phenology, morphology, distribution, and physiology of endangered tree species.

EDUCATION

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Forest Resources Technology

Emphasis Area: Land Reclamation and Rehabilitation

Institution: Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

📅 09/2019 – 09/2023

📍 Kumasi, Ghana

Relevant coursework
- ✓ Computer applications in natural resources
- ✓ Introduction to Remote Sensing and GIS
- ✓ Applied Remote Sensing and GIS
- ✓ Rural Land Use Planning

Thesis Title: Spatio-temporal vegetation change analysis of the Anwhiaso East Forest Reserve using Remote Sensing and GIS

WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

Ghana Wildlife Society

📅 11/2023 – Present   📍 18 Independence Ave, Accra

- Primary responsibility involves developing detailed and precise maps to support research and conservation projects
- Supporting in the establishment of a CREMAs (Community Resource Management Areas) to engage the local community in governance of the resources around them.
- Assisting in writing projects proposals.
- Participating in outreaches to educate community members and students about the conservation.
- Involved in the designing of the 2024 Nko magazine (Magazine of the Wildlife Clubs of Ghana) which aims at educating kids about the environment
- Assisted in redesigning and improving the functionality and content of the organizational website to enhance user experience and effectively communicate the organization's missions

Internship
Forestry Commission (Forest Service Division)
📅 01/2023 – 05/2023   📍 Bibiani, Western Region, Ghana

- Managed nursery operations, including seedling establishment, weed control, shade provision, soil preparation, irrigation, and pest management.
- Planted over 10,000 seedlings of *Terminalia superba*, *Cedrela odorata*, *Tectona grandis*, and pear for the 2023 Green Ghana project.
- Supported the mapping officer in the creation of forest reserve maps and analysis of Land Cover Changes.
- Participated in tree inventory activities by counting and marking trees within the reserve.
- Conducted tree stocking assessments and completed Tree Identification Forms to evaluate tree stand volumes in the reserve.
- Engaged in tree species identification activities to enhance familiarity with the diverse tree species in Ghana's forests

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Ecological Restoration Fund Project
- To restore degraded areas around the Mole National Park and establish CREMAs for sustainable resource management.

My Roles:
- ✓ Collected coordinates of various land cover types from the field.
- ✓ Created Land Use Land Cover Maps of the Landscape over a thirty year period to identify changes in land cover types.
- ✓ Conducted ground truthing to validate the accuracy of the maps created.
- ✓ Participated in bringing three different communities in the Mole landscape together to promote collaboration in protecting the resources in the area.
- ✓ Planted 5000 seedlings of native species (African Mahogany, Tamarind and the African Locust bean) for the restoration of degraded areas in the Mole landscape.

Improving Conservation Status of *T. gentii, H. ghanensis*, and *D. singroboensis* (Endangered Species) in Ghana's Forests
- Implement in-situ conservation strategies to enhance the populations of three endangered species and restore degraded habitats.

My Roles:
- ✓ Assisted in writing reports for the first phase of the project.
- ✓ Collected over 4,000 Talbotiella seedlings from the forest.
- ✓ Planted over 7,000 Talbotiella seedlings in situ.
- ✓ Planned outreaches to Educate local community farmers and school students about the three endangered species.
- ✓ Employed NDVI and land cover mapping to establish a baseline for assessing habitat conditions in the *T. gentii* restoration area.

Assessing Land Use Change Dynamics in Ghana's Western Wildlife Corridor

- To analyze land use changes of the western wildlife corridor of Ghana over 40 years and assessing how it impacts wildlife migration of animal to and from Protected Areas.

My Roles:

✓ Identified and analyzed the primary drivers of land use change within the corridor using ArcGIS
✓ Quantified and mapped changes in land use patterns within the Western Wildlife Corridor over the last 40 years

Spatio-temporal Vegetation Analysis of Anwhiaso East Forest Reserve

- Designed an extensive research aimed at analyzing changing vegetation cover in the Anwhiaso East Forest Reserve, Western North Region, Ghana

Activities:

✓ Utilized ArcGIS and spatial images to analyze shifts in land cover types in the Forest Reserve over a thirty-year period
✓ Collected coordinates of the various Land Cover types to validate the accuracy of the map created
✓ Quantified the shifts in Land Cover types for analysis of land cover shifts
✓ Identified the major drivers of change in the forest by identifying spatial patterns of change

TRAINING PROGRAM

Restoring threatened trees through a forest-based approach
📅 17/04/2024 – 25/04/2024

Topics Covered

✓ Planning for Impacts for Restoration Projects
✓ Understanding links between forest ecology and restoration
✓ Restoration approaches and forest monitoring

Organizers: TBA and INEC Ghana
Sponsor: Fondation Franklina

VOLUNTEERING

✓ Clean-up exercise at the Laboma Beach, Ghana. In celebration of world cleanup day (**21/09/2024**)
✓ Educated students (12-16yrs) of New Town Experimental School about the environmental impact of littering (**24/05/2024**)
✓ Tree planting exercise: Planted 1,000 *Tetrapleura tetraptera* seedlings to restore degraded areas in Kumasi City (**08/2022**)

SKILLS

Microsoft Office
Excel   Word   PowerPoint
Access
Map Making
ArcGIS   QGIS
Data Analysis
R Statistical Programming