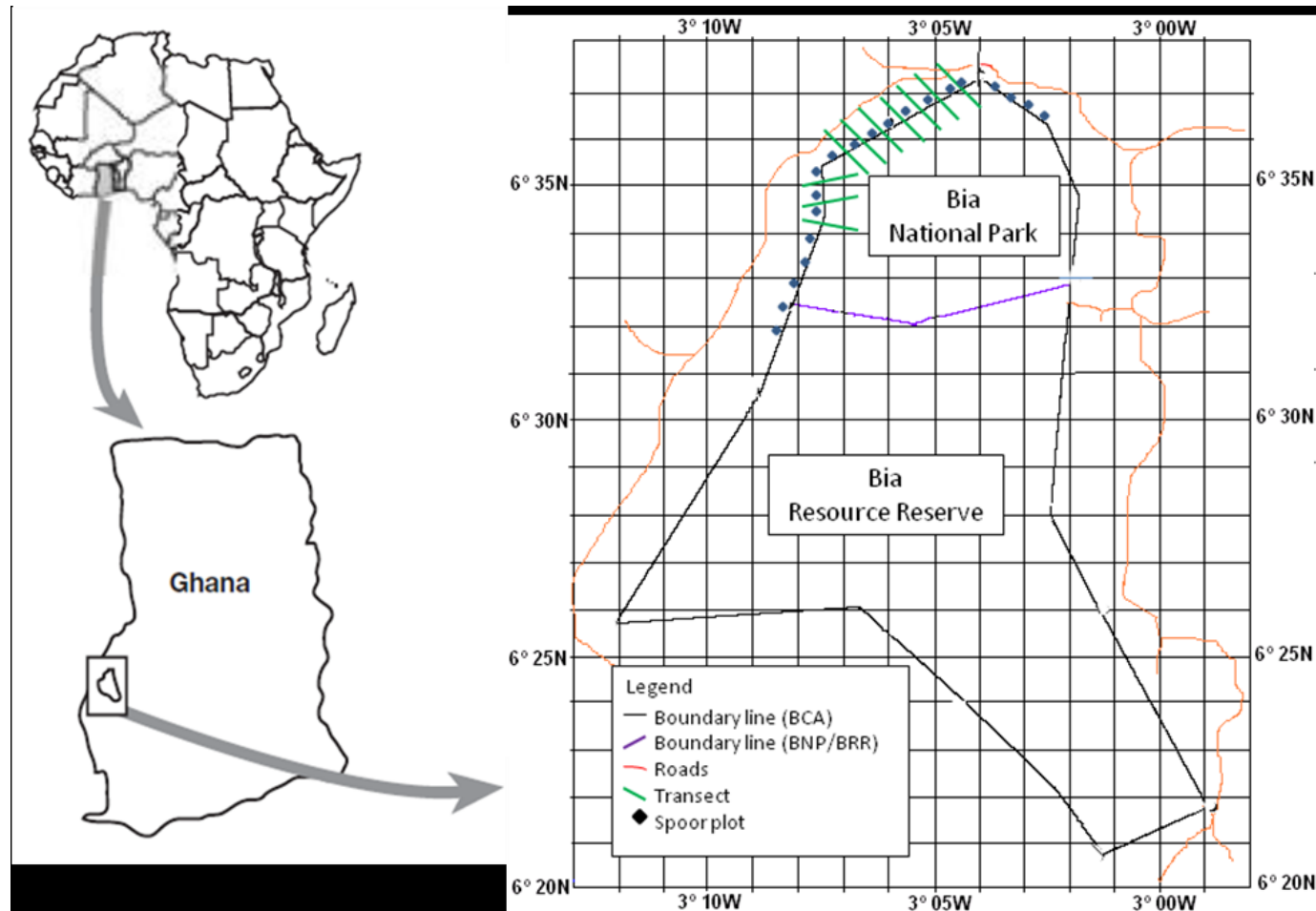


**BIA BIOSPHERE RESERVE IN  
GHANA  
GOVERNANCE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

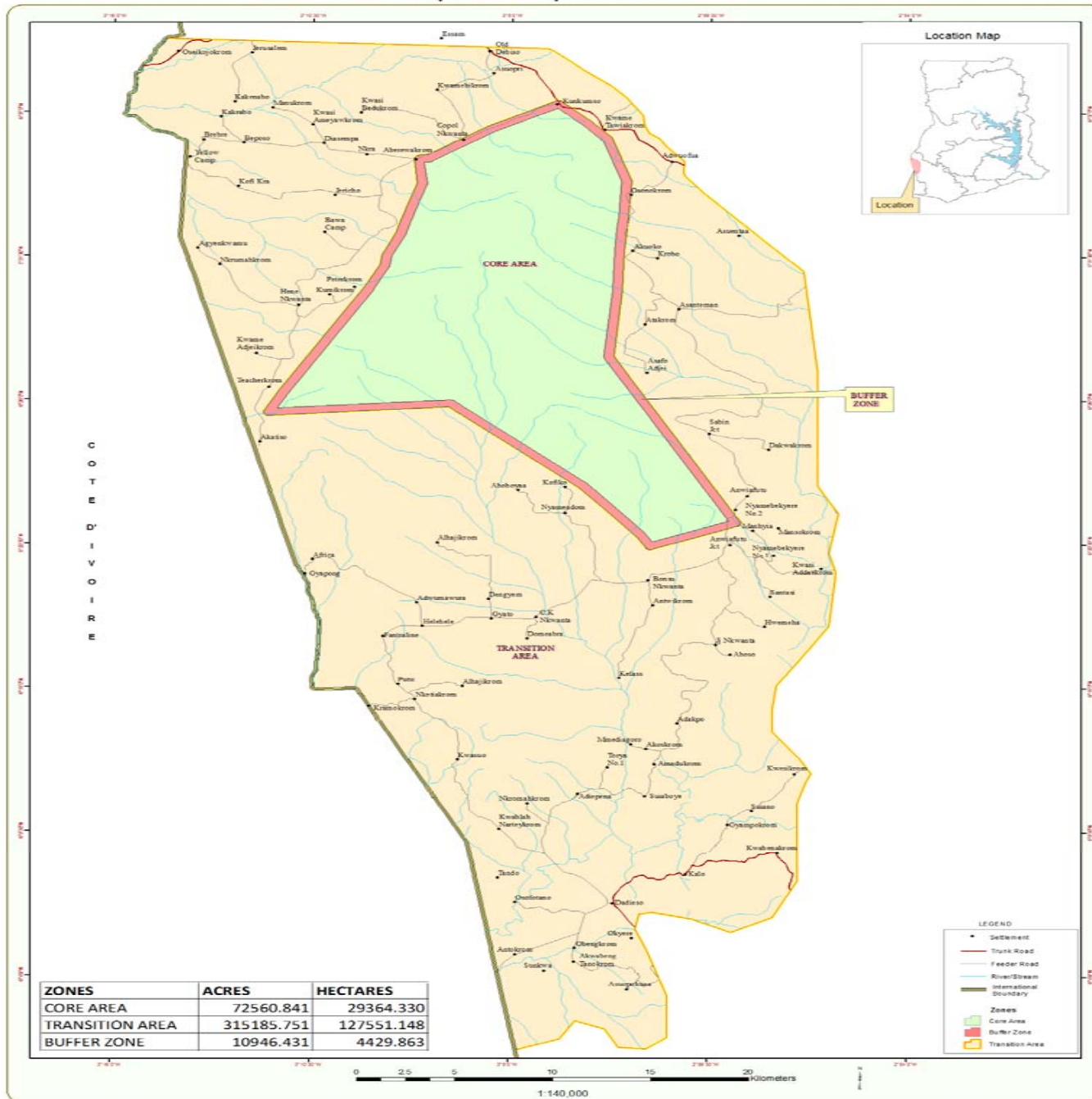
**4<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES,  
LIMA PERU**

**PRESENTED BY:  
RICHARD OFORI-AMANFO**

# LOCATION OF BIA BIOSPHERE RESERVE (BBR)



### Various Zonation Map of Bia Biosphere Reserve



# MAIN STRUCTURES OF BIOSPHERE RESERVE MANAGEMENT

1. Traditional model (Government structure)
2. NGO model
- Mixed model

## **Features of the model structures**

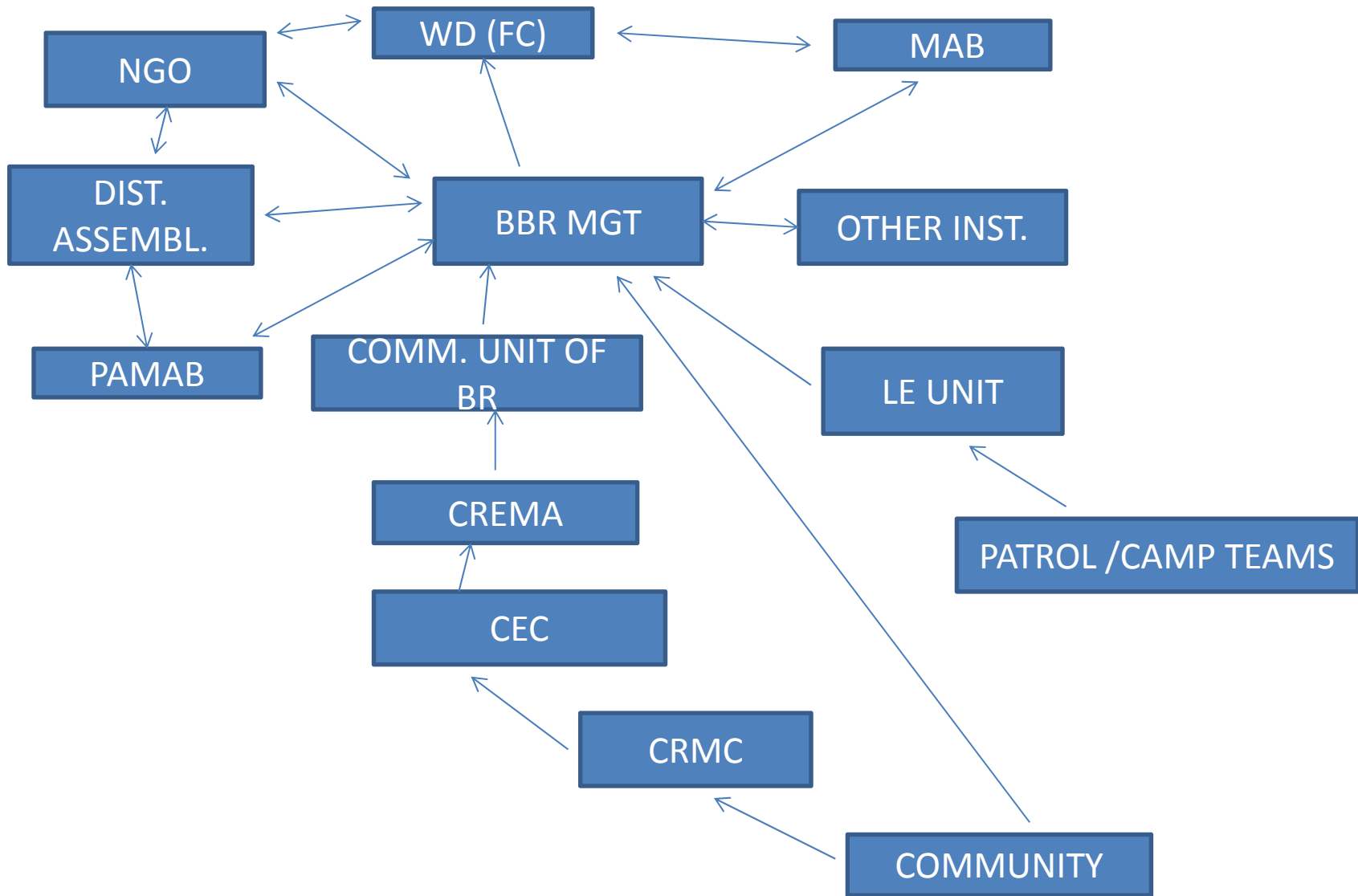
- A “secretariat” or “management unit” consisting of professional staff who perform full-time paid work every day in concrete activities for the biosphere reserve
- A “management/steering/executive committee” with the key decision-making power
- An “advisory board”, which may also have a specific scientific mandate and is the place to assemble all available knowledge and to allow broader participation

# MANAGEMENT OF BIA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

## INTRODUCTION

- Wildlife Division of Forestry Commission of Ghana (mandated for sust. mgt of wildlife resources and their habitats in Ghana)
- MAB Committee: Supports the mgt of the BR
- District Assemblies (mainly at transition area)
- Protected Area Management Advisory Board (PAMAB) - local mgt board
- Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) – Supports in mgt of the transition area
- NGO'S – Implement conservation projects

# GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF BIA BR



## **ROLES OF WILDLIFE DIVISION, FORESTRY COMMISSION OF GHANA**

- Responsible for strict protection of the core area and (National Park and Resource Reserve), gazetted by law WRR, LI 881
- In this core area WD staff conduct regular patrols, data collection, planning, monitoring etc. for strict protection
- Coordinates activities in the buffer & transition areas: conservation education & sensitization, formation and functioning of PAMAB and CREMA, periodic patrols etc
- Implement BR strategies together with MAB, Dist. Assemblies, NGOs and other key stakeholders

# **CORE AREA – BIA BR (VIRGIN TROPICAL FOREST)**





# STAFF ON PATROL IN THE CORE AREA



# WD STAFF ON NIGHT PATROL IN CORE AREA



# **ROLE OF MAB COMMITTEE**

- Works with WD to ensure sustainable management and development of the BR
- Conducts and supports research activities in the BR
- Play an advisory role in the mgt of the BR
- Supports and embarks on conservation education and sensitization with the WD staff
- Implementation of projects e.g. Green Economies project

# COLLABORATION WITH DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES

- Involve the Park Management in their major meetings and receive the BR reports
- They have representatives on the PAMAB
- They advise and support the BR in resolving some of its challenges and reduce conflicts
- They incorporate the BR in the medium term development planning of the DA
- Support the enactment of bye laws to manage the transition area

# COMMUNITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREAS (CREMA)

- The CREMA – Formed in transition area : by intensive sensitization to conserve own resource,
- Aimed to reduce fast degradation of biodiversity in the transition zone
- There are Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) in each community or cluster of communities
- Each CREMA has it's highest mgt, CEC selected from the CRMC, which steer the affairs of the entire CREMA
- The CREMA have certificate and bye laws to operate
- The Park Community Unit and other officials participate in the CEC and CRMC meetings to address issues

# **PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD (PAMAB)**

- The PAMAB is constituted by WD staff, some prominent chiefs, Dist. Assembly, farmers, Police, fire service
- Meet periodically to advise and help the Park Management to address major issues
- Resolve conflicts arising between the Park and the communities
- Support conservation education in the BR
- Advises on sustainable development activities

# NGOs

- Work with WD to implement identified sustainable development projects
- Lease with the BR to conduct research
- Collaborate with the Park to educate and train community members in the BR
- They also support capacity building of WD staff
- Support the communities with livelihood activities and improvement of farm products

# CHALLENGES

- Irregular meetings by PAMAB and CECs
- Transfer and change of key members in the PAMAB and CEC
- Change in administration heads in the District Assemblies
- Lack of cooperation by some communities in implementation of CREMA
- Challenges in sustainability of NGO projects



# CONCLUSION

- Successful governance and implementation of strategies in BR need collaborative efforts of all stakeholders
- Thank you for your attention