



# INFORMATION ON WASSA AMENFI WEST DISTRICT

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# THE LANDSCAPE

- Outer Boundary: District of Wasa Amenfi West
- Within red boundary: 2 globally significant biodiversity areas, large areas of forest reserve and most of the most forest-dependent communities in the district



# Preliminary monitoring land cover change



**Deforestation**



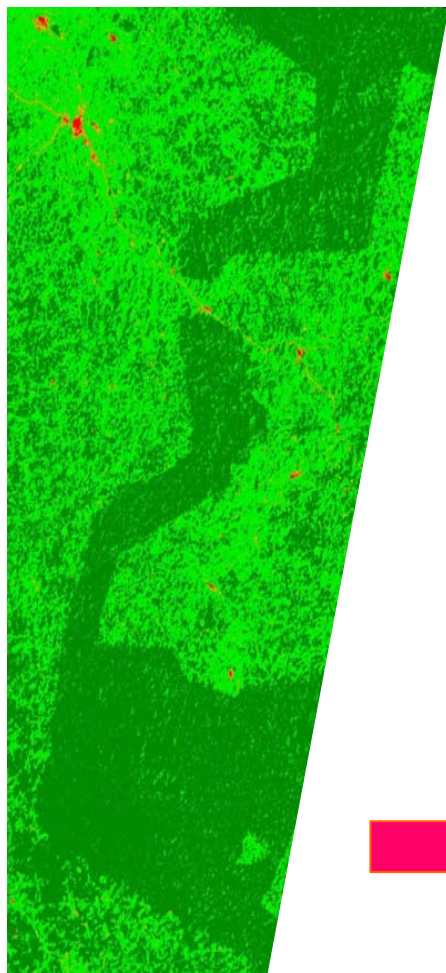
**Regrowth & Intensification**



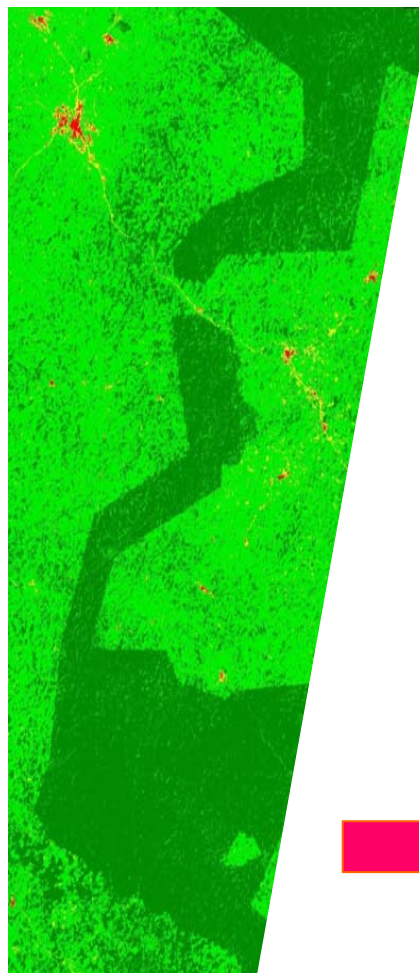
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- Assessment via remote sensing?
- Do we have information on carbon content of forests & farms?
- Yes – but difficult to define different stages of land-use change with remote sensing
- Ground survey needed for determining C-content and the different stages of land use change

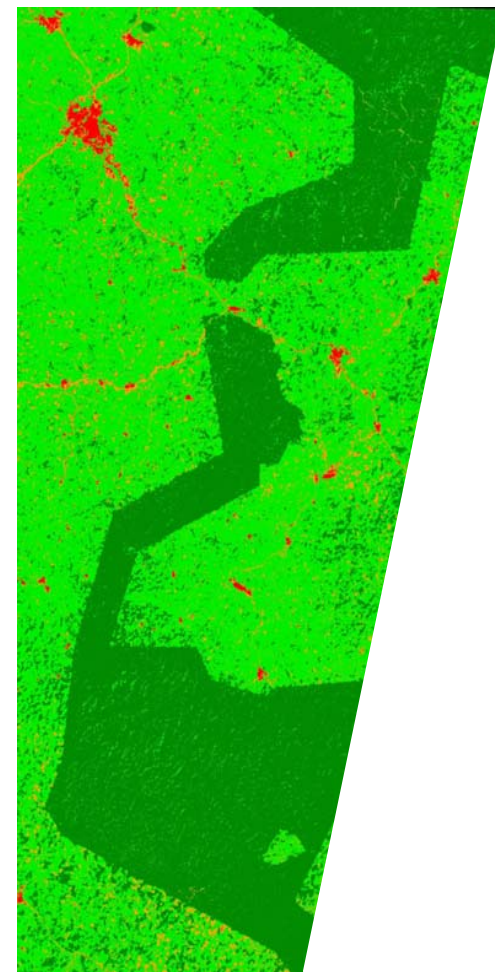
# Land cover change



1986



2000



2007

This follows a similar pattern witnessed across Western Region

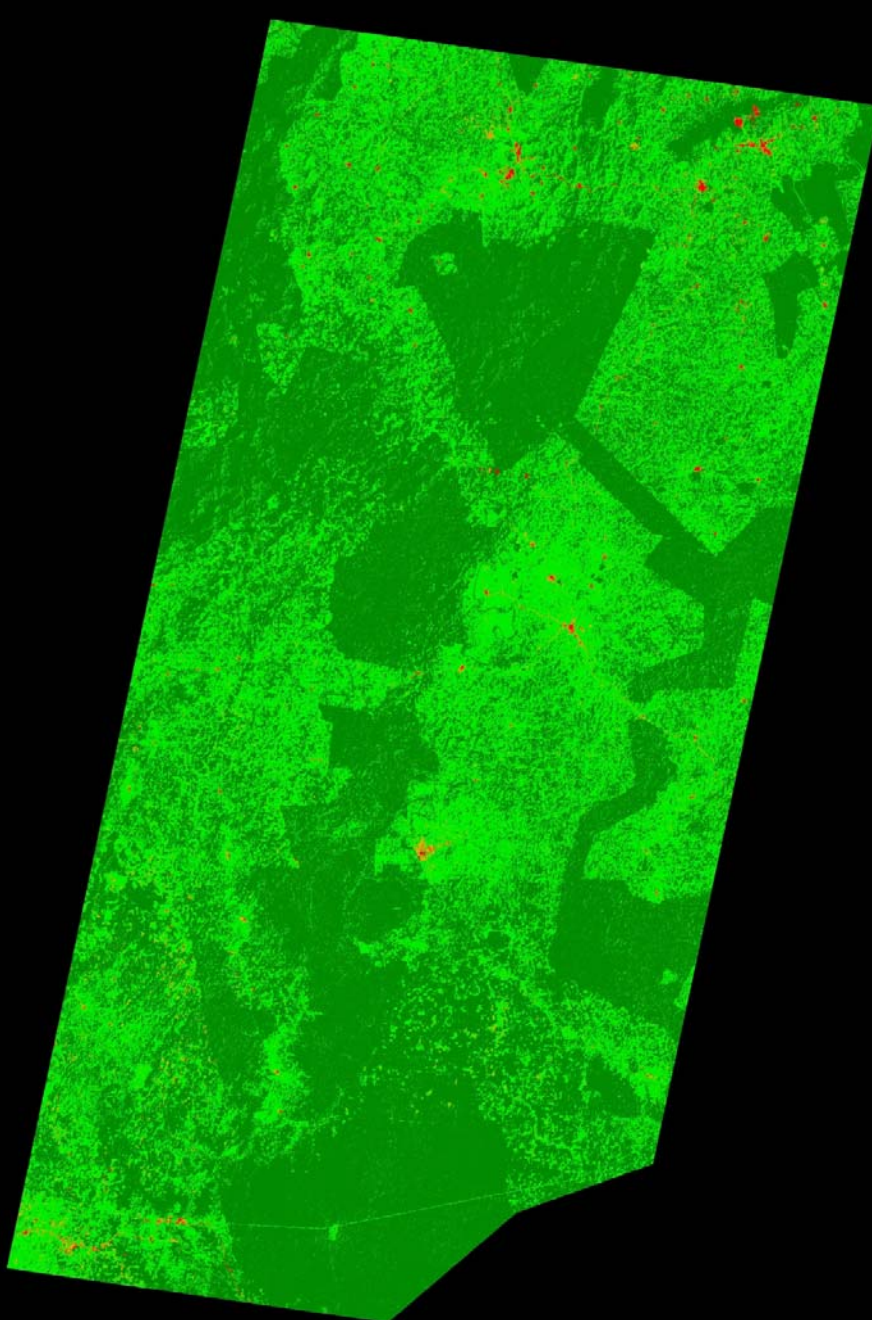
1986

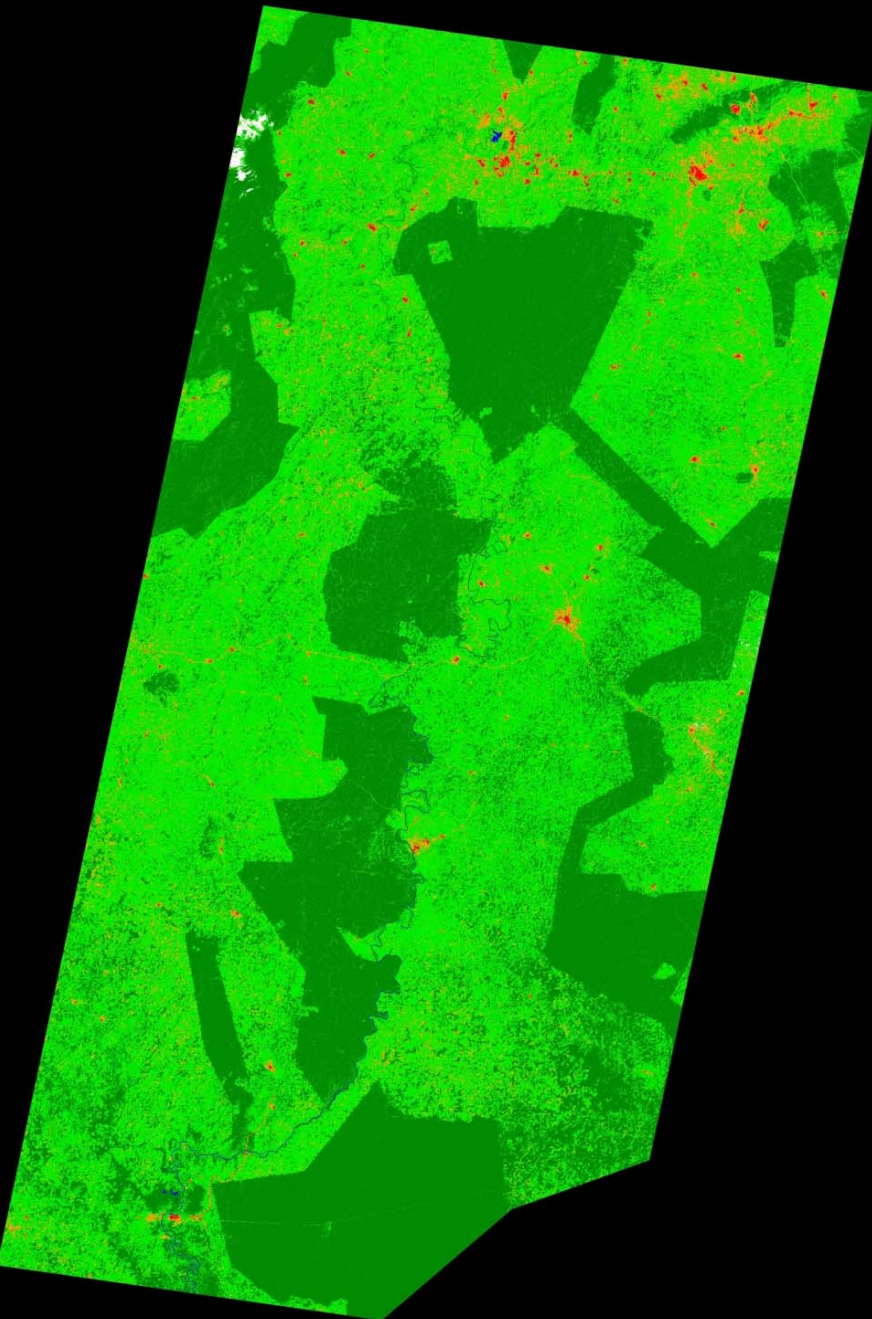
Accuracy: 94 %

Legend

-  Forest
-  Mixed land cover (mainly agroforest)
-  Urban
-  Bare soil

 20 km





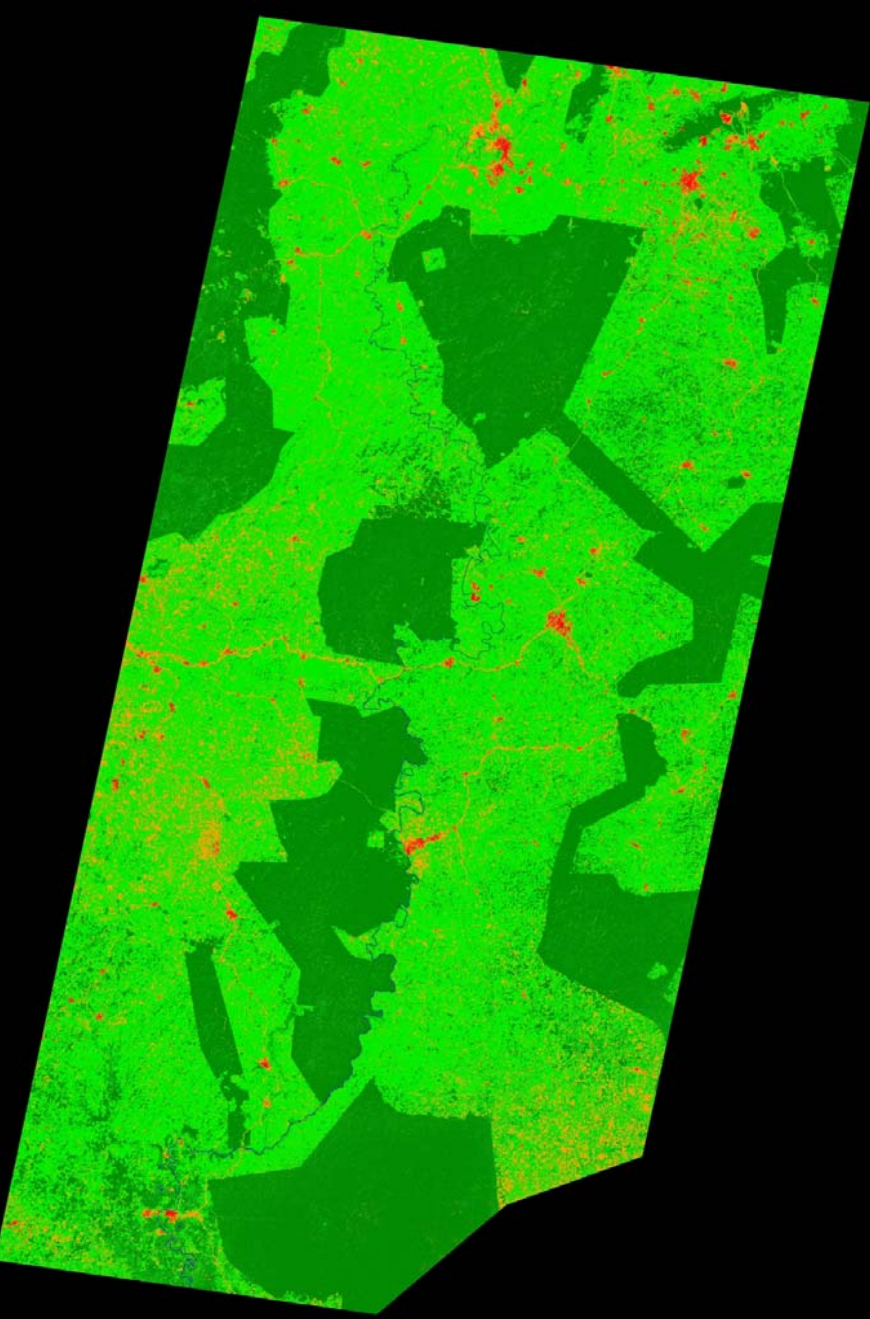
2000

Accuracy: 88%

Legend

-  Forest
-  Mixed land cover (mainly agroforest)
-  Urban
-  Bare soil

  
20 km



2007

Accuracy: 90 %

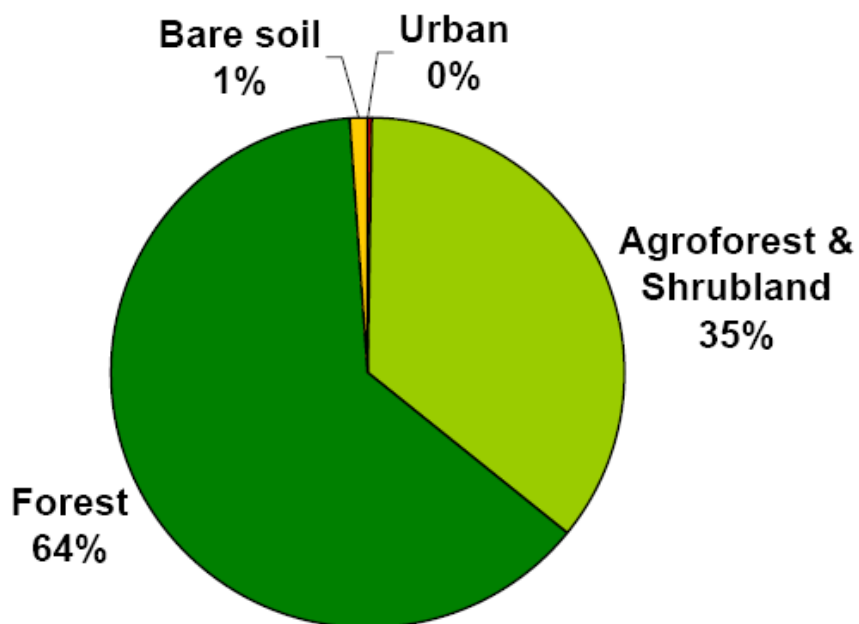
Legend

-  Forest
-  Mixed land cover (mainly agroforest)
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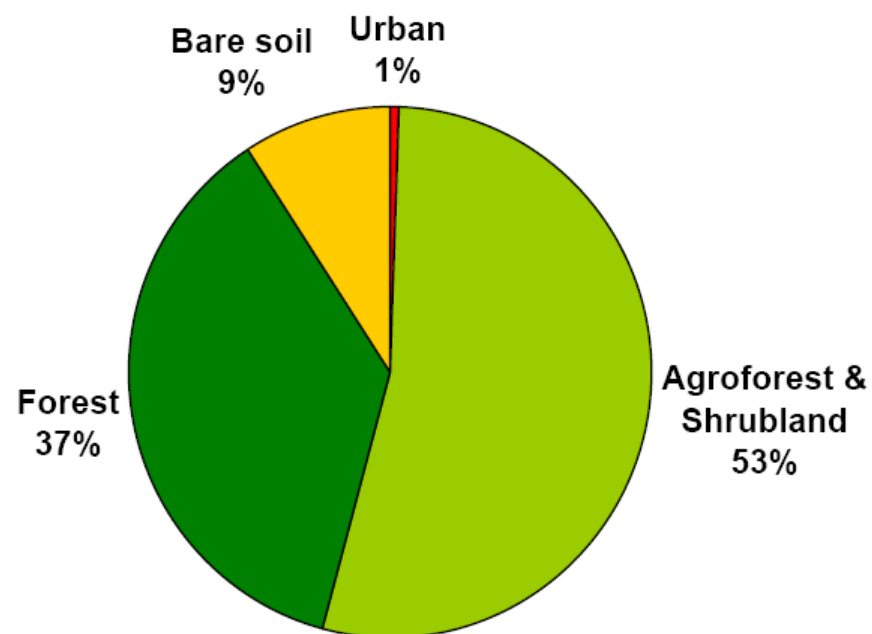
  
20 km

# Western Ghana – changes 1986 - 2007

1986



2007



**Total area = ca. 700,000 ha**

**1986 forest cover = ca. 445,000 ha**

**1986 – 2007 forest loss = ca. 190,000 ha**

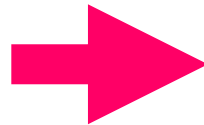
# Change detection



**1986 – 2000**

conversion of forest to agroforestry:  
Equal to (at least) 68 tC/ha lost

In Wasa Amenfi **33 %** of forest area  
In larger region **42 %** of forest area

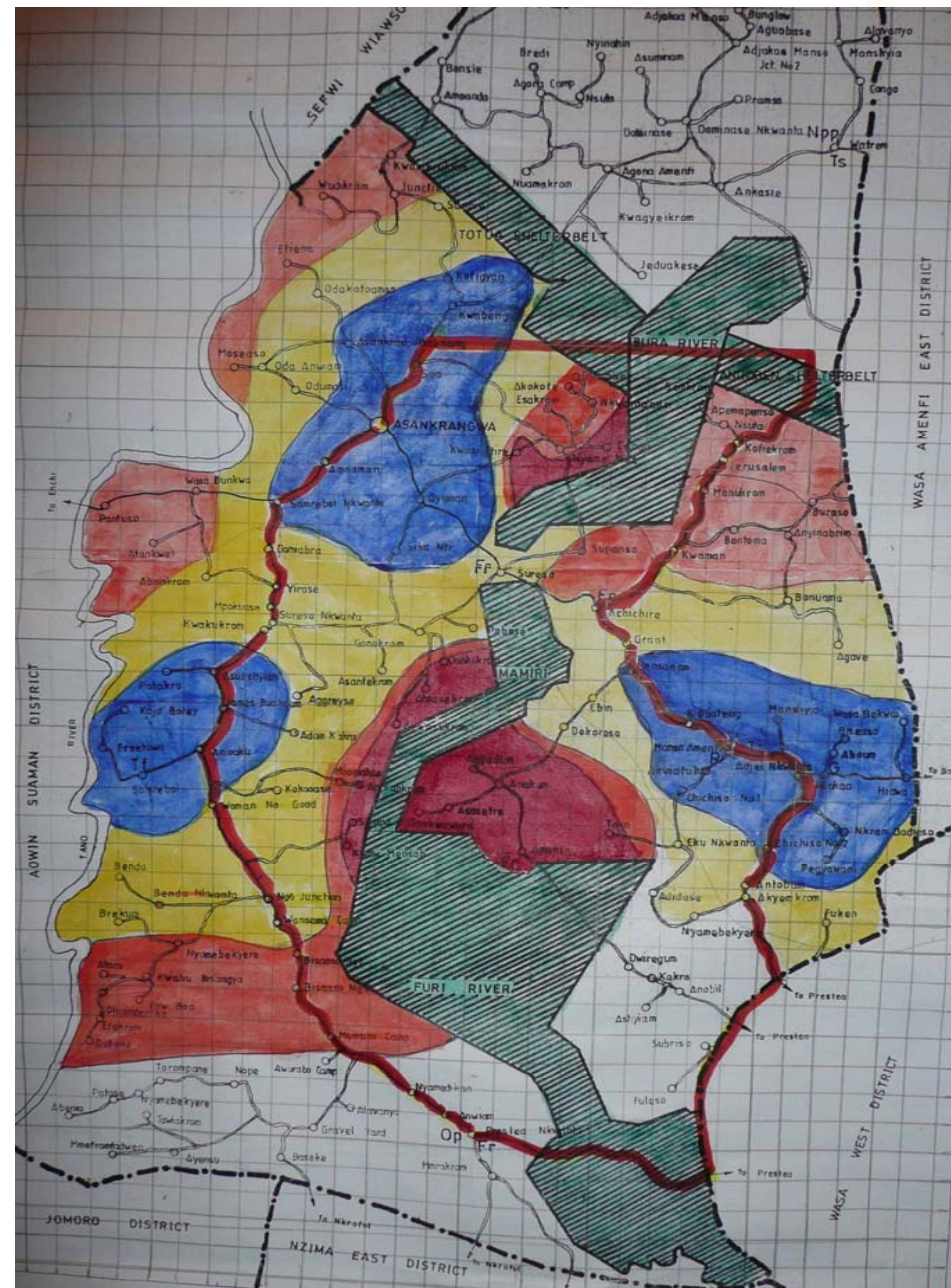


## Field Observations:

- Forests: 20% - 35% of rural livelihoods
- Poor depend on wider range of forest products but rich benefit more (eg. cola trade)
- The period of agricultural expansion is over – little available land outside forest reserves
- Intensification of agricultural land highlighted as urgent in all scenarios
- Need for greater collaboration between MoFA and FC at district level on land–use.
- Tree tenure is still unclear and problematic

# What does this mean for local communities?

- **Blue** areas lie on an all weather road within 10km of a main market town.
- **Yellow** areas lie 11-20 weighted km from a market town, on mixed roads
- **Orange** areas lie 21-30 weighted km from a market town, on mixed roads
- **Dark red** areas lie 31-40 weighted km away, over mainly poor roads.
- **Most amenities** are clustered in blue and yellow areas. **Poorest** (dark red) areas are all found right up against forest reserves (dark green).



# A tale of two communities



- **Pensanom** on main road and 15 mins from Asankrangwa
- Has electricity and piped water.

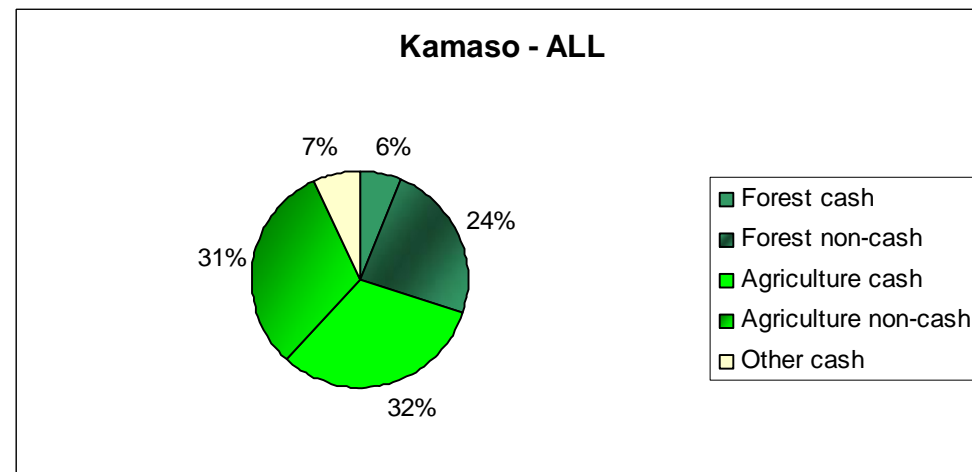
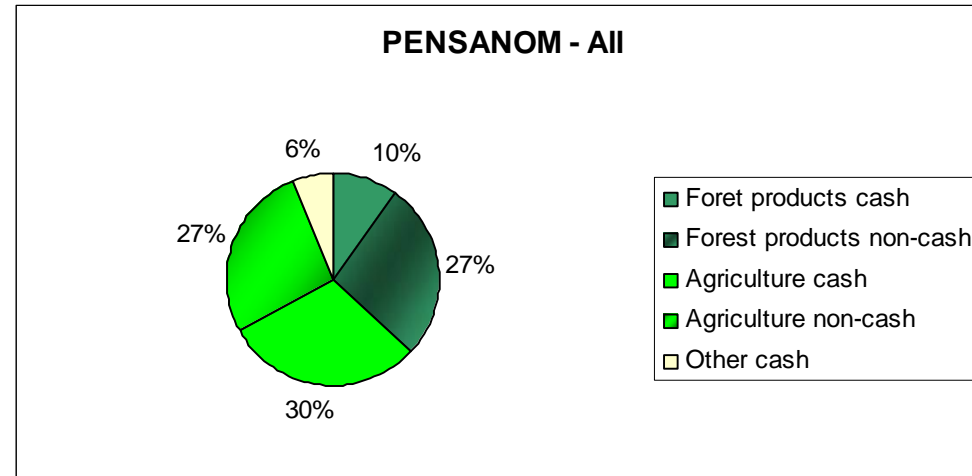


**Kamaso** reached by muddy road and dangerous bridge, The journey to Asankrangwa includes walking 8km by foot. No electricity and has only one borehole



# Forests-related income

- Communities have similar distribution of income sources between forest cash and 'non-cash' income, agriculture cash and non-cash income
- Pensanom relies on forests for 37% of all income
- Kamaso relies on forests for 30% of all income.
- Kamaso benefits less in absolute terms due to isolation and because it has less rights but probably more reliant on forests in real terms.



# Main problems in Pensanom and Kamaso

In both communities, participants ranked their agricultural problems more highly than their forest problems.

- Land shortage
- Loss of soil fertility - leading to.....
  - need for fertiliser which people cannot easily afford
  - increased pest infestations and no money for pesticides
- Micro-credit was essentially unavailable, even for those in richer Pensanom.
  
- ALL HAVE PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR LAND-USE AND THEREFORE REDD!

