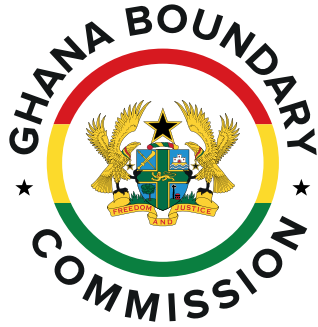




2024 ANNUAL REPORT

GHANA BOUNDARY COMMISSION



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GHANA BOUNDARY COMMISSION

MOTTO: SERVICE, VIGILANCE & PARTNERSHIPS

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABD	African Border Day	IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ABF	Abidjan Border Forum	IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area	ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
AU	African Union	ITLOS	International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
AUC	African Union Commission	ITRF	International Terrestrial Reference Frame
AUBP	African Union Border Programme	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
BP	Boundary Pillar	LBT	Land Boundary Terminus
CAGD	Controller and Accountant-General's Department	MDAs	Ministries, Departments, Agencies
CAPEX	Capital Expenditure	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
CNFCI	National Boundary Commission of Côte d'Ivoire	MFARI	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
CPAPS	Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security	MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
DCE	District Chief Executive	MLNR	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	MNS	Ministry of National Security
ECS	Extended Continental Shelf	MoF	Ministry of Finance
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	MoFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
ESCO	Espace Communautaire Volta Noire	MoJAGD	Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department
GAF	Ghana Armed Forces	MTOC	Mitigation of Destabilising Effects of Transnational Organised Crimes
GBC	Ghana Broadcasting Corporation	NIB	National Intelligence Bureau
GhBC	Ghana Boundary Commission	PRAAD	Public Records and Archives Administration Department
GIFMIS	Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System	PSC	Public Services Commission
GIS	Ghana Immigration Service	SBS	Strengthening Border Security
GIS	Geographic Information System	SKBoWa	Sikasso-Korhogo-Bobo Dioulasso-Wa
GITOC	Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime	TOC	Transnational Organised Crimes
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
GMA	Ghana Maritime Authority	UNCLCS	United Nation Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
GNPC	Ghana National Petroleum Corporation	UNCLOS	United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
GRA	Ghana Revenue Authority	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
GTV	Ghana Television	WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
IBL	International Boundary Line		
IBP	International Boundary Pillar		
IBRU	International Boundaries Research Unit		
IBSM	Integrated Border Stability Mechanism		
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development		

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS/GLOSSARY

ArcGIS – Part of the Esri Geospatial Cloud, ArcGIS is the foundational piece of the ArcGIS platform for GIS professionals to create, analyse, manage, and share geographic information for decision-makers to make intelligent, informed decisions. ArcGIS allows for the creation of maps, performance of spatial analysis, and management of data.

Boundary Pillar – A physical concrete pillar built on the ground along the international boundary line to define the sovereign limits of neighbouring states. These pillars serve as tangible markers of territorial demarcation and are essential for maintaining border integrity and sovereignty

Buffer Zone – Designated areas that serve as neutral spaces between two or more regions, often with the purpose of managing boundaries and mitigating conflicts or negative impacts.

Delimitation – The legal process by which neighbouring states agree on the location of common boundaries. It also refers to the placement of buoys or other maritime markers along the common maritime boundaries of neighbouring coastal/littoral states.

Demarcation – A field operation where a delimited boundary between neighbouring sovereign states is physically established on the ground by the placement of pillars and other boundary markers to represent the location of the boundary and make it visible.

Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) – An area where a country has exclusive rights to the entire water column, seabed mineral, and resources.

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) – A zone in the ocean where the adjacent nation has jurisdiction. This generally includes waters extending 200 nautical miles from a nation's coastline.

Geographic Information System (GIS) – A computer system for capturing, storing, checking, and displaying data related to positions on the Earth's surface.

Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) – A general term describing any satellite constellation that provides positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) services on a global or regional basis.

International Boundary Lines (IBL) – Lines separating two countries, wherein individual governments have full authority over their respective sides of the land. These designations on the border helps to identify the dividing line between countries with territorial limits.

Land Boundary Terminus (LBT) – The extreme point or endpoint of a land boundary line between two sovereign states, usually identified and established on the ground with a boundary pillar.

Legacy Document – Legacy documents within the context of boundary governance refer to historical/ archival records that define the international boundaries of a country. These documents include maps, reports, treaties, correspondence and other forms of relevant information that describe features that separate a country from another.

Reaffirmation – The process by which a common boundary between sovereign states is jointly reconfirmed via a new survey and the establishment of new boundary pillars on the ground. This is usually carried out due to an obscured international boundary line demarcated by obsolete survey methods.

Tribrach - An attachment plate used to attach a surveying instrument, for example a GNSS antenna or target to a tripod.

MESSAGE BY THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL



As we conclude another impactful working year rooted in Service, Vigilance, and Partnerships, it is fitting to review the progress we have made and the obstacles we have overcome.

Reflecting on the milestones achieved in 2024, I am immensely proud of the efforts of the Ghana Boundary Commission for safeguarding the international boundaries of Ghana and advancing international cooperation. In line with our strategic objectives, this year has been one of partnerships, collaboration, and resilience, enabling us to make significant strides in institutional capacity building, cross-border cooperation, securing our international land and maritime boundaries, and addressing emerging security challenges through collaborations and research.

Our year began with the recognition that evolving trends in international boundary management necessitated the revision of the initial Five-Year Strategic Plan of the Commission to reflect the demands of a rapidly changing international

”

... the mandate of GhBC extends beyond traditional task of boundary reaffirmation and demarcations. Our work encompasses border community development, enhancing human security in deprived border communities, and fostering cross-border partnerships.

environment. Thus, the Commission revised its original Five-Year Strategic Plan to a comprehensive Ten-Year outlook (2021-2031) to maintain its relevance and adaptability. This adjustment underscores our commitment to sustainable growth, robust policies, and effective boundary governance. By extending the planning horizon, we aim to optimise resources, strengthen stakeholder engagement, and ensure long-term success in navigating operational complexities.

In 2024, several key projects and initiatives significantly advanced our goals. To secure our international land and maritime boundaries, we successfully conducted joint operational assessments and land boundary reaffirmation exercises along our shared land boundaries with all our three neighbouring countries. Key achievements included:

- Construction of thirty-eight international boundary pillars along the Ghana/Togo stretch from Afiao to Atanve in the Volta Region;
- Establishing modalities for reaffirming the common land boundary between Ghana and Burkina Faso; and
- Conducting operational assessments and mapping surveys with the National Land Boundary Commission of Togo.

On the maritime front, we jointly conducted maritime boundary inspections along the western maritime boundary with Côte d'Ivoire, as part of reinforcing our commitment to the peaceful implementation of the 2017 ITLOS ruling. We held a series of plenary and technical meetings with Togo to amicably resolve the maritime boundary dispute with Ghana.

It is important to note that the mandate of GhBC extends beyond the traditional task of boundary demarcations and reaffirmations. Our work encompasses border community development, enhancing human security in deprived border communities, and fostering cross-border partnerships. Thus, we prioritised

stakeholder engagements and strengthened partnerships this year. Notable among these was our collaboration with the German Embassy and GIZ on the Sikasso-Korhogo-Bobo Dioulasso-Wa (SKBoWa) Cross-border Cooperation Project, which focuses on enhancing human security, development and capacity building in tripartite border communities of Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Mali.

In collaboration with Conciliation Resources and the Robert Bosch Stiftung, we organised a National and Regional Stakeholders' Workshop to address emerging security threats and explore initiatives towards effective boundary management. These dialogues offered critical insights to shape our future strategies. Additionally, the Commission hosted the inaugural meeting of the Heads of National Boundary Commissions in West Africa. This groundbreaking meeting was the first of its kind in West Africa, creating a centralised platform to harmonise strategies for border governance across the region. The meeting also represents a pivotal step towards establishing coordination mechanisms for enhanced border management across the region.

Our commitment to border community development continued with the rehabilitation of the Leklebi-Kame Health Centre in the Volta Region; the commencement of the construction of a three-unit classroom block at Newtown in the Western Region; the construction of feeder roads to Dollar Power in the Savannah Region and Sapelliga in the Upper East Region; and the initiation of plans to rehabilitate additional social intervention projects identified during 2023. Through the 'Support to the Mitigation of Destabilising Effects of Transnational Organised Crime' (MTOC) Project, in partnership with GIZ, we conducted research and community sensitisation exercises in border areas such as Dorimon in the Upper West Region, and Saru, and Dollar Power in the Savannah

Region. These efforts focused on raising awareness of transnational organised crime and strengthening community resilience.

A significant development for the Commission in 2024 was the passage of the Ghana Boundary Commission Bill (2024) by the Parliament of Ghana on 18 December 2024. The new GhBC Act (Act 1123) replaces the old one, Act 795 (2010). This legislation enhances the country's capacity to manage boundary demarcation, reaffirmation, and disputes. The new Act grants the Commission greater authority to handle boundary issues with neighbouring countries, aligning with international best practices. Additionally, the law enables the Commission to implement social interventions for residents in deprived border communities and foster cross-border cooperation with neighbouring states.

Despite our achievements, we faced challenges such as financial constraints, technological limitations, and adverse weather conditions that disrupted some operations. However, the resilience of the Commission, along with partner support, enabled us to overcome obstacles and to deliver on our mandate. Logistical challenges also tested our resolve and capacity, but with a maintained staff strength of sixty four (64) as at the end of 2024, we remain well-positioned to tackle the difficulties moving forward.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, we are committed to making the Ghana Boundary Commission more agile and effective through strengthened partnerships and stakeholder collaborations. We will continue to prioritise engagements with national, regional and international partners while exploring new

opportunities for collaboration to address the evolving boundary management and security landscape.

Finally, I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to all the individuals and organisations who have contributed to our successes this year. Our dedicated staff, key governmental agencies, and international partners, including the African Union, ECOWAS, GIZ, the German Embassy, Robert Bosch Stiftung Foundation, and Conciliation Resources, have been instrumental in advancing our mission. I also want to recognise district assemblies such as the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District Assembly, the Bole Municipal Assembly, the Wa West District Assembly, the Afadjato District Assembly, and a host of others, as well as border communities within the districts for their cooperation and commitment to the peace and security along our international borders. Together, we have laid a solid foundation for a more secure and prosperous future. I wish to thank the Parliament of Ghana and especially the Speaker for ensuring that the new GhBC Bill (2024) was passed.

Building on this foundation, we must remain steadfast in our efforts to safeguard Ghana's international boundaries and to promote peace, stability and development across the African continent.



Major General Emmanuel W. Kotia, PhD
Commissioner General
Ghana Boundary Commission

OVERVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF GHANA



Ghana is located south of the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean and shares boundaries with Burkina Faso to the north, Côte d'Ivoire to the west, and Togo to the east. The Ghana Boundary Commission (GhBC), established by Act 795 of Parliament in 2010, is mandated to oversee the effective management of the international land, and maritime boundaries of the country. The mandate aligns with international law and adheres to protocols established by the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The international boundaries of Ghana are largely defined by natural and physical landmarks, such as rivers, streams, trees, and boundary pillars.^{1,2}

The international land boundaries of Ghana span approximately 2,209 kilometres, comprising

about 556 kilometres shared with Burkina Faso, 661 kilometres with Côte d'Ivoire, and 789 kilometres with the Republic of Togo. The Ghana Boundary Commission, jointly with neighbouring states, fosters the sustainable development and management of the country's boundaries.³

To date, the Commission has audited and surveyed 584 international boundary pillars.⁴ These surveyed boundary pillars are to be fortified through a structured approach, including main pillars, intermediary pillars at one-kilometre intervals, and boundary crossing pillars at major border crossing routes.⁵ This systematic establishment of boundary markers adheres to international standards. It strategically prevents potential disputes and promotes harmonious relations with neighbouring countries.⁶

¹ Overview of Ghana Boundary Commission. <https://ghanaboundarycommission.org/>.

² 2022 Annual Report. <https://ghanaboundarycommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GhBC-2022-Annual-Report.pdf>

³ Ibid: Overview of Ghana Boundary Commission

⁴ Survey and Delimitation Department-Ghana Boundary Commission. 3/12/24.

⁵ Survey and Delimitation Department-Ghana Boundary Commission. 3/12/24.

⁶ Ibid: Overview of Ghana Boundary Commission

Ghana shares maritime boundaries with Côte d'Ivoire to the west and with Togo, Benin, and Nigeria to the east.⁷ Guided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Maritime Zones (Delimitation) Law, the maritime jurisdiction of Ghana encompasses a territorial sea extending up to 12 nautical miles, a contiguous zone reaching 24 nautical miles, an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) spanning 200 nautical miles, and a continental shelf that extends beyond 200 nautical miles.⁸ Additionally, the airspace of Ghana is defined as the vertical extension of the land and maritime boundaries, a crucial delineation for effective air traffic management and the safeguarding of national security.

The management of the international land boundary of Ghana faces numerous challenges, including the displacement of boundary pillars, porous borders, the influx of refugees, small arms trafficking, and boundary demarcation disputes.⁹ A particularly pressing concern is the removal of international boundary markers, such as teak plantations and boundary pillars along the Ghana-Côte d'Ivoire border in areas like Dollar Power, caused by illegal mining activities.¹⁰ Similarly, sections of the eastern boundary between Ghana and Togo have been contentious, particularly around the Kolpelig River. This area, situated between Konugu in Togo and Gariki and Beliting in Ghana, has been a focal point for disputes concerning boundary demarcations marked by a pillar and a landmark.¹¹

Despite these challenges, boundary disputes between Ghana and neighbouring states have been successfully resolved through diplomatic engagements and joint collaborations

between GhBC and counterpart institutions of neighbouring countries. Ghana and Togo conducted a comprehensive reaffirmation exercise led by the boundary commissions in the respective countries to ensure lasting resolution of boundary disputes and prevent future conflicts. This initiative involved detailed boundary surveys, the generation of precise geographic coordinates, and the construction of 50 new boundary pillars to reinforce the reaffirmation.¹² Additionally, as part of the ITLOS ruling, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire through the respective national boundary commissions have developed an implementation plan which partly seeks to provide further clarity to the international boundary between the two states. The implementation plan paves the way for the re-affirmation of the land boundary between the two countries. On the northern boundary of Ghana, engagements have been underway to commence the re-affirmation of the land boundary between Ghana and Burkina Faso.

The maritime boundaries of Ghana, like those of many coastal nations, have faced disputes with neighbouring countries. A notable example is the successful resolution of the maritime boundary dispute with Côte d'Ivoire in 2017, achieved through the intervention of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).¹³ Following ITLOS's definitive ruling, the Ghana/Côte d'Ivoire Technical Committee was established to develop a comprehensive framework for a mutually agreed maritime boundary.¹⁴ To strengthen the security of the maritime boundary of Ghana, the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) provided maritime surveillance drones to the GhBC. This strategic initiative is designed to

⁷ Maritime Boundary – Ghana Boundary Commission. <https://ghanaboundarycommission.org/maritime-boundary/>

⁸ See Sea Blindness Undermining Ghana's Maritime Domain Development (<https://dailyguidenetwork.com/sea-blindness-undermining-ghanas-maritime-domain-development/>) / Maritime Delimitation in Ghana: A Triumph of Legal Framework and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/maritime-delimitation-ghana-triumph-legal-framework-dispute-otiboe/>)

⁹ Obah-Akpowoghaha, N. G., Ojokorotu, V., & Tarro, M. L. (2020). Porous Borders and the Challenge of National Integration in Africa: A Reflection of Ghana, Republic of Benin and Nigeria. *Journal of African Foreign Affairs*, 7(3).

¹⁰ Boundary Commission calls for joint efforts to demarcate Ghana-Cote D'Ivoire borders. <https://www.classfmonline.com/news/general/Boundary-C-ssion-calls-for-joint-efforts-to-demarcate-Ghana-Cote-D-Ivoire-borders-41245>

¹¹ Ghana and Togo Resolve Land Boundary Dispute. <https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/ibru-borders-research/news-and-events/boundary-news/ghana--togo-resolve-land-boundary-dispute/>

¹² Ibid: 2022 Annual Report

¹³ Yiallourides, C. & Donnelly, E. R. (2017). Part I: Analysis of Dispute Concerning Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in the Atlantic Ocean. <https://www.ejiltalk.org/part-i-analysis-of-dispute-concerning-delimitation-of-the-maritime-boundary-between-ghana-and-cote-divoire-in-the-atlantic-ocean/>

¹⁴ Ibid: 2022 Annual Report

enhance patrol operations and ensure effective monitoring of the maritime boundaries of Ghana with a focus on precision, efficiency, reliability, and cost-effectiveness.¹⁵

As part of this initiative, the Commission conducted a comprehensive assessment of Ghana's maritime boundary along the western frontier. The primary objective was to evaluate the status of both maritime and land boundaries. The assessment utilised the Ghana Navy Ship for on-site inspections, supplemented by a surveillance maritime drone to enhance verification processes. The integrated approach facilitated the detailed identification of potential violations up to 50 nautical miles offshore.¹⁶ Concurrently, the Commission, through a Technical Committee, has been actively working to resolve a longstanding maritime boundary dispute with the Republic of Togo, ongoing since 2021. Recent progress has seen both nations reaching an agreement on the coordinates for the Land Boundary Terminus, a critical reference point for the eventual delineation of the maritime boundary between Ghana and Togo.¹⁷

A significant portion of Ghana's international land boundary faces challenges from encroachment within designated buffer zones. To address this, the Commission has actively organised community forums educate and sensitise border residents about the importance of protecting these boundaries and promptly reporting any tampering with or removal of boundary pillars.¹⁸ Furthermore, Ghana's borders are highly porous, with extensive networks of traffickers and a continuous emergence of unauthorised routes. The country officially recognises 48 designated border crossing points: 12 along the northern boundary, 16 in the east, 17 in the west, and 3 in the south. In contrast, there are 293 known

unauthorised crossing points, with many more yet to be identified, significantly undermining border security. For instance, along the Ghana/Burkina Faso border alone, approximately 190 unapproved entry points have been documented, underscoring the acute vulnerability of Ghana's northern boundary.¹⁹

The spillover effects of extremist activities in the Sahel region have heightened the vulnerability of the northern borders of Ghana. The north-eastern and north-western border areas are significantly impacted by the arrival of over 4,000 Burkinabe refugees fleeing jihadist attacks.²⁰ This continuous influx poses dual challenges: an increased risk of terrorist infiltration and intensified competition for essential resources such as food and water between the refugees and local communities.²¹ These challenges highlight the need for a strategic, comprehensive approach to addressing the security and humanitarian issues at Ghana's northern borders.

The international boundaries of Ghana, managed under the stewardship of the GhBC, are vital to maintaining the country's territorial integrity. Effective boundary management minimize disputes with neighbouring countries and underscores Ghana's commitment to peaceful coexistence and regional stability. The integration of advanced technologies, such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), has significantly enhanced maritime border surveillance, while community engagement and sensitisation efforts have effectively addressed localized challenges. Through these proactive measures, the Ghana Boundary Commission continues to enhance border security, promote national stability, and foster harmonious regional relations.

¹⁵ Boundary Commission Acquires UAVs with Navy, GNPC. <https://www.ghanapeacejournal.com/boundary-commission-acquires-uavs-with-navy-gnpc/>

¹⁶ GhBC Checks Ghana's West Maritime Boundary. <https://www.ghanapeacejournal.com/ghbc-checks-ghanas-west-maritime-boundary/>

¹⁷ Ibid: Maritime Boundary - Ghana Boundary Commission

¹⁸ Ibid: Ibid: 2022 Annual Report

¹⁹ With Extremism Just Over the Northern Border, Ghana Bolsters Security. <https://adf-magazine.com/2023/02/with-extremism-just-over-the-northern-border-ghana-bolsters-security/>

²⁰ High level dialogue on Burkinabe Refugees in Ghana held in Accra. <https://reliefweb.int/report/ghana/high-level-dialogue-burkinabe-refugees-ghana-held-accra#:~:text=Over%204%2C000%20Burkinabes%20have%20fled,Upper%20West%20Regions%20of%20Ghana.>

²¹ News Situation Tracking. <https://wanep.org/wanep/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Ghana-SITUATION-TRACKING-Inflows-of-Burkinabes-into-Northern-Ghana-Territories28.pdf>



SECTION ONE

BACKGROUND OF THE GHANA BOUNDARY COMMISSION

BACKGROUND OF THE GHANA BOUNDARY COMMISSION

1.1 Introduction

The Ghana Boundary Commission (GhBC) was established under Act 795 of Parliament with the pivotal role of safeguarding Ghana's territorial sovereignty by managing and securing its international and maritime boundaries. The Commission's mandate includes the determination, demarcation, and delimitation of these boundaries, reflecting the critical importance of boundary governance in promoting national security, territorial integrity, socio-economic development, and cross-border cooperation. Recognising that international boundaries are fundamental to state sovereignty and security, the Commission's function extend beyond physical boundary management to include facilitating boundary dispute negotiations, dispute resolution, and cross-border cooperation in adherence to international law and best practices. Since becoming operational, the GhBC has consistently demonstrated its commitment to fostering regional peace and stability through partnerships with neighbouring states, multilateral bodies, and local stakeholders. Tasked with maintaining accurate and secure boundaries, the Commission aligns its efforts with continental frameworks such as the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) to promote regional stability and cooperation.

1.2 Brief Background of the Ghana Boundary Commission

The Commission was established out of necessity to address Ghana's boundary-related challenges. Effective management of Ghana's international boundaries has far-reaching implications for national peace, security, and cross-border cooperation. Since becoming operational in 2021, GhBC has been pivotal in facilitating negotiations, conducting boundary surveys, and resolving international boundary disputes to advance Ghana's interests. By collaborating with national agencies and international partners, GhBC strives to enhance stability and integration

along the frontiers of Ghana. In the year 2024, the major activities of the Commission focused on land boundary operations, maritime boundary engagements, partnership and stakeholder engagements, research, sensitisation activities, and administrative matters. Key activities undertaken during the year under review include, the construction of international boundary pillars, maritime surveillance exercises along the Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire maritime boundary, national and regional dialogues, social intervention projects along Ghana's international boundaries and border community sensitisation programmes. Furthermore, staff of the Commission participated in various international and national conferences, workshops and training programmes, to enhance their capacity and develop their skills for effective understanding and the advancement of the mandate of the Commission.

1.3 Vision

To ensure that the international land and maritime boundaries of Ghana are secured and managed within the framework of international law, peace and security, and the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Protocols of African and Regional Integration.

1.4 Mission

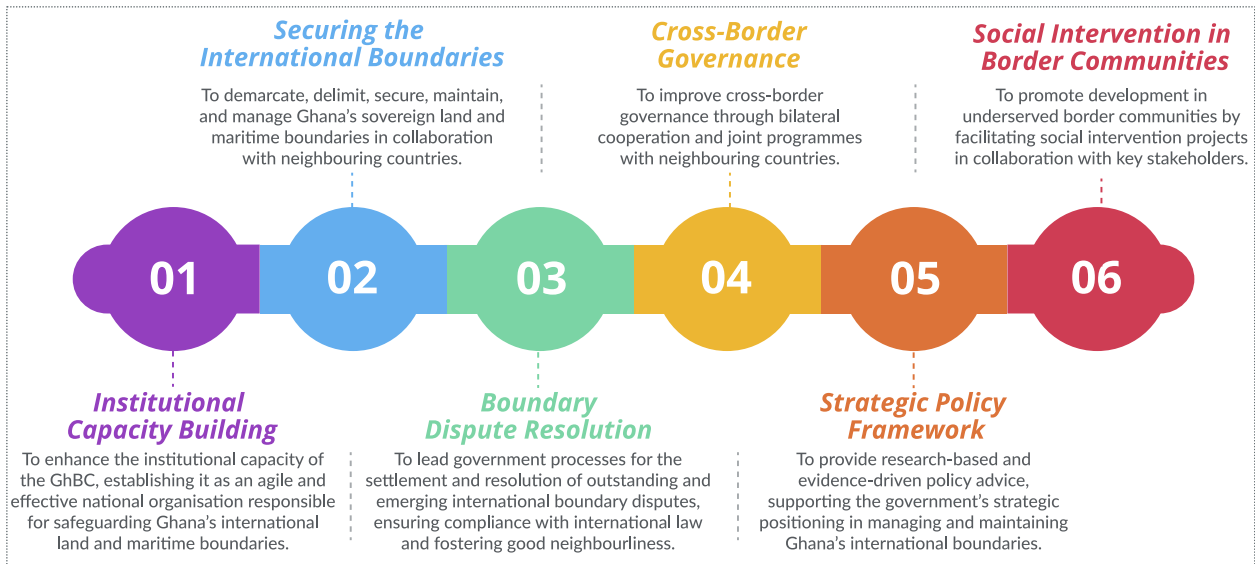
To demarcate, delimit and manage the international land and maritime boundaries of Ghana, including settling boundary disputes through the implementation of National legislations, and Regional and International Conventions on boundary management and cross-boundary cooperation in Africa.

1.5 Strategic Objectives

The Commission operates under six primary strategic objectives, developed through a comprehensive analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. These

objectives are designed to facilitate the effective implementation of the mandate of the Commission.

Figure 1.1: Strategic Objectives of the Ghana Boundary Commission.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 December 2024.

1.6 Governing Body of the Commission

The Governing Body of the Ghana Boundary Commission is made up of the following:

- the Minister responsible for Lands and Natural Resources as the Chairperson
- the Ministers responsible for the following: National Security; Interior; Defence; Foreign Affairs; Energy; Aviation; and Local Government;
- the Attorney-General
- one representative of the following: the Ministry responsible for Finance not below the rank of a Director; the National House of Chiefs; the Ghana Institution of Surveyors; the Ghana Institution of Geoscientists; and academia with expertise in international security matters nominated by the Minister; and
- the Commissioner-General.

1.7 Functions of the Commission

The Commission is mandated to carry out the following functions:

- Negotiate with a neighbouring country concerning a land boundary, maritime boundary, or airspace boundary between Ghana and that country.
- In collaboration with relevant security agencies, ensure the security of the boundaries of Ghana to safeguard the

territorial sovereignty of Ghana at all times.

- In collaboration with the Lands Commission and other agencies, undertake the physical demarcation and survey of international land boundaries, and the delimitation of maritime boundary and airspace.
- Whenever determined by the Governing Body, place buoys or other maritime markers along some or all of the courses of the maritime boundaries of Ghana.
- Advise the Government on the most appropriate strategy for the negotiation of an international land boundary, maritime boundary, or airspace.
- Through negotiation, determine cross-boundary matters among communities along international boundaries.
- Promote negotiated settlement of international border disputes in preference to litigation.
- Promote trans-border cooperation and local community development.
- Advise Government on international Conventions in relation to the borders of Ghana, and the signing and ratification of treaties related to international land boundaries, maritime boundaries, and airspace.
- Advise the Government on issues related to the use of natural resources that straddle international land and maritime boundaries.

- j. Implement policies and programmes on international land boundaries, maritime boundaries and airspace.
- k. Coordinate with relevant international bodies on maritime demarcation across the international seabed.
- l. Perform any other functions ancillary to the objects of the Commission.

1.8 Structure of the Commission

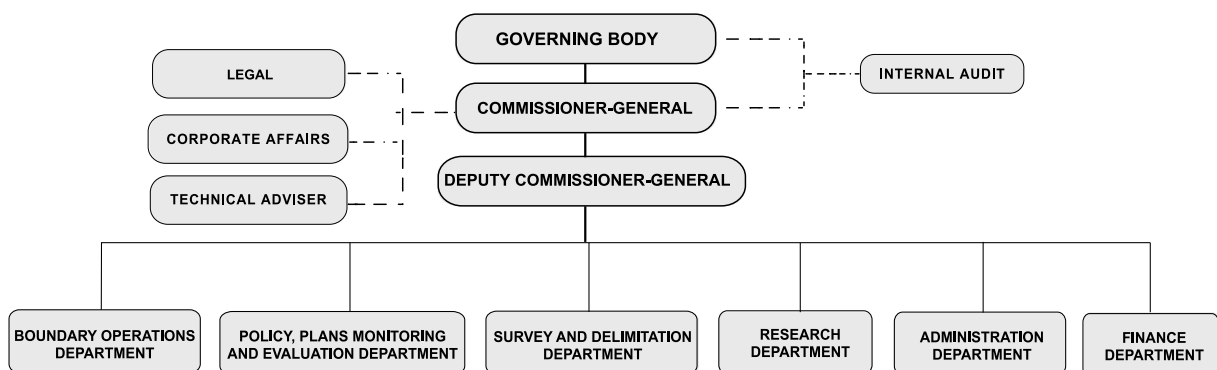
The Commission, as part of the governance structure, has an Inter-Ministerial Governing Body which provides oversight and strategic policy direction for the Commission. At the next level of the Commission's organisational and governance structure is the Executive Management Committee which assists the Commissioner General in the implementation of the Commission's strategic focus. The Executive Committee comprises the Commissioner General as Chair, and the Directors of the various departments namely, Boundary Operations; Policy, Plans, Monitoring and Evaluation; Survey and Delimitation; Research; Administration and Finance. The other members include the Heads of Legal and the Senior Technical Advisor.

The GhBC Act established a Land Boundary Technical Committee which performs assigned functions for the Commission. The Committee is mandated to handle all land boundary-related disputes, with the view to settle the dispute; define and demarcate boundaries in accordance with international and national laws; proffer solutions to any land boundary dispute;

and promote the development and effective management of land boundaries. Membership of the committee is drawn from the GhBC with the Commissioner General being the chairperson, the Director of Survey Division, the Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Department, the Ghana Immigration Service, the Ministry of National Security, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority, the Ministry responsible for Lands and Natural Resources, the Ministry responsible for Local Government and Rural Development, and two other persons nominated by the Commission.

The GhBC Act also establishes a Maritime Boundary Technical Committee to address matters affecting the maritime boundary of Ghana, including the delimitation of international boundaries in accordance with relevant instrument or documents. The Committee provides solutions to maritime boundary disputes involving Ghana and makes recommendations to the Governing Body. It is chaired by the Commissioner General and includes representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, National Security, and Fisheries and Aquaculture as well as the Petroleum Commission, Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, Ghana Maritime Authority, Ghana Armed Forces, and the Office of the Attorney General. Below is the outline organisational structure of the Commission which was approved by the Public Services Commission (PSC) in 2024.

Figure 1.2: Outline Organisational Structure of the Ghana Boundary Commission.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 December 2024.

1.9 Results Harvesting: Overview of Key Achievements in 2024

The Commission undertook various activities in 2024, achieving significant progress in fulfilling its mandate. These accomplishments, aligned with GhBC's Six Strategic Objectives, are summarised in Table 1.1, which highlights the key milestones reached during the year.

Table 1.1: Summary of Key Achievements in 2024.

Serial	Strategic Objectives	Key Activities/Achievements
1.	<p>Institutional Capacity Building: To enhance the institutional capacity of GhBC, establishing it as an agile and effective national organisation responsible for securing Ghana's international land and maritime boundaries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced staff capacity through participation in national and international training programmes, fostering professional development and operational efficiency. The Commission successfully formulated and validated key policies, including those on Health and Grievance Management, to strengthen organisational governance and address critical operational needs. Developed a new Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Reporting Template and Policy to standardise and guide the monitoring and evaluation processes for the programmes and activities of the Commission. Facilitated the acquisition of essential tools and equipment to enhance the Commission's operational efficiency. Implemented and institutionalised a paperless system to streamline operations, enhance efficiency, and promote environmental sustainability within the Commission.
2.	<p>Securing the International Boundaries: To demarcate, delimit, secure, maintain and manage Ghana's sovereign land and maritime boundaries in collaboration with neighbouring countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted joint Ghana/Togo surveys and land boundary reaffirmation exercises to verify and establish clear, legally binding boundaries, resolving potential disputes. Constructed eleven (11) new international boundary pillars along the Ghana/Togo international land boundary to reinforce demarcation and promote boundary clarity and security. Conducted two (2) Maritime Boundary Inspections along the Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire International Maritime Boundary Line in collaboration with the Ghana Navy with the aim of ensuring adherence to the ITLOS ruling and for monitoring compliance along the international maritime boundary with Côte d'Ivoire to safeguard the territorial waters of Ghana. Organised the second plenary meeting between the Ghana Boundary Commission and the National Boundary Commission of Nigeria, resulting in the establishment of a 14-member technical committee and the development of a 2025 work plan. Retrieved 7 legacy documents to support activities relevant to securing and maintaining the international boundaries of Ghana.
3.	<p>Boundary Dispute Resolution: To lead government processes for the settlement and resolution of outstanding and emerging boundary disputes, ensuring compliance with international law and fostering good neighbourliness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued implementation of the 2017 ITLOS ruling on maritime boundaries between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, ensuring compliance with the ruling and fostering peaceful maritime relations. Engaged in ongoing negotiations over the Ghana/Togo maritime dispute, maintaining a positive outlook toward achieving a mutually beneficial resolution.

4.	<p>Cross-Border Governance: To improve cross-border governance through bilateral cooperation and joint programmes with neighbouring countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted sensitisation exercises in multiple border communities within the Oti, Upper East, Upper West, and Savannah Regions of Ghana, as well as in Dakola and Yikpa in Burkina Faso, to promote awareness and crossborder cooperation on boundary management and security issues • Facilitated the Inaugural meeting of the Heads of Boundary Commissions which provided a unique platform for engagement in meaningful discussions on efforts towards cross-border management, as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by Member States. • Facilitated an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Espace Communautaire Volta Noire (ESCO Black Volta) in Accra. This meeting aimed at fostering collaboration between Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso along their shared Black Volta Boundary • Participated as a stakeholder and member in the SKBoWa Cross-border operation project involving Mali, Ghana, Burkina, Faso and Cote d'Ivoire. The project aims to strengthen cross-border cooperation and resilience across the region.
5.	<p>Strategic Policy Framework: To provide research-based and evidence-driven policy advice, supporting the government's strategic positioning in managing and maintaining Ghana's international boundaries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated the validation and adoption of frameworks on cross-border cooperation, land boundary reaffirmation between Ghana and Burkina Faso, and a memorandum of understanding on land boundary reaffirmation. • Adopted the Framework Agreements and Procedures for implementing the ITLOS ruling on the maritime boundary and reaffirming land boundaries between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, ensuring compliance and fostering bilateral cooperation. • Conducted field research to identify critical human security needs and uncover illicit activities in selected border communities, providing actionable insights for targeted interventions. • Developed 5 publications on diverse boundary-related themes to enhance information and knowledge sharing among stakeholders.
6.	<p>Social Intervention in Border Communities: To promote development in underserved border communities by facilitating social intervention projects such as schools, health facilities, feeder roads and water systems in collaboration with key stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitated and handed over a community health facility at Leklebi-Kame in the Volta Region, funded by the ECOWAS Commission through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration. • Initiated the construction of a three-unit classroom block in New Town, Jomoro District, Western Region, funded by the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) to improve educational infrastructure in the area. • Oversaw the construction of feeder roads to Dollar Power and Sapelliga Border areas to enhance accessibility and provide patrol routes for security agencies.

Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 December 2024.



SECTION TWO

INTERNATIONAL LAND BOUNDARY ACTIVITIES

2.1 Introduction

The total international land boundary of Ghana extends approximately 2,209 kilometres and is shared with Togo to the east, Burkina Faso to the north, and Côte d'Ivoire to the west. The boundary features a diverse array of natural landscapes, including dense forests, low savannahs, mountains, valleys, rivers, and streams. Additionally, the international boundaries are marked by artificial structures such as boundary pillars (BPs), which are strategically placed to define the territorial limits of the country. Table 2.1 illustrates the international land boundary statistics of Ghana.

Table 2.1: Statistics of the International Land Boundaries of Ghana.

Neighbouring Country	Rivers & Streams (Km)	Land (km)	Approx. Length (Km)
Togo	621	285	906
Burkina Faso	287	303	590
Cote d'Ivoire	253	460	713
Total	1,161	1,048	2209

Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 December 2024.

The sovereignty of a state is highly contingent on well-defined international land boundaries. While many Western states have leveraged these boundaries as avenues for shared growth and collective prosperity, the situation in Africa often presents a stark contrast, where borders are sources of conflict, underdevelopment, and conduits for transnational organised crime. Recognising the critical role of borderlands in fostering national and regional peace, security, stability, and economic development, Member States through the African Union Border Programme (AUBP), are intensifying efforts to ensure the proper demarcation, delimitation, and reaffirmation of international boundaries. As

Map 2.1: Map indicating Ghana's International Land Boundaries.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 December 2024.

an AU Member State committed to transforming Ghana's international boundaries of Ghana into channels of growth, the Government of Ghana, through the Ghana Boundary Commission, undertook several collaborative activities in 2024 with key stakeholders to ensure effective boundary management and cross-border cooperation.

These initiatives included joint land boundary surveys and reaffirmation exercises with Togo, the construction of new international boundary pillars along the Ghana/Togo International Boundary, the initiation of Phase 1 of the Joint International Land Boundary Reaffirmation

with Côte d'Ivoire, and the commencement of processes for jointly reaffirming the international boundary with Burkina Faso. Additionally, the Commission held multiple bilateral technical meetings with the National Boundary Commissions of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. These efforts underscore the Commission's commitment to enhancing cross-border cooperation and ensuring boundaries contribute to regional stability and economic integration.

2.2 Joint Ghana/Togo Land Boundary Reaffirmation Exercise

The Fourth Phase of the Joint Ghana/Togo Land Boundary Reaffirmation Exercise, conducted between January and February 2024, aimed to address critical objectives. These included completing outstanding works from previous phases, such as locating and surveying BP4 and staking out intermediate pillars between BP4-BP5 and BP23-BP56. Additionally, the main reaffirmation focused on searching for, surveying, and mapping the boundary line between BP56 (Kuma Bala) and BP80 (Dzindziso/Badou). The outcome of the outstanding works

was that the joint team successfully located and surveyed BP4 after two extended years. Intermediate pillars were staked out along two key stretches: BP4-BP5, 12 pillars, and BP23-BP56, 50 pillars. A LiDAR drone test survey was also conducted to estimate the channel of River Aka around BP4, covering a mapped area of 3.0 km by 0.5 km. The field research, survey, and mapping covered approximately 36.4 km of the boundary line between BP56 (Kuma Bala) and BP62 (Dozoko Dzolu), including 9.9 km of rivers and 26.5 km of land. Along this stretch, five main pillars and 23 intermediate pillars were located and surveyed, contributing to the accurate mapping and reaffirmation of the international boundary. These efforts align with the strategic goal of securing Ghana's borders and preventing future boundary-related conflicts.

2.3 Joint Ghana/Togo Land Technical Meeting

In February 2024, the Ghana/Togo Joint Technical Sub-Committee for Land Boundary Reaffirmation convened at the Ghana Boundary Commission office in Accra to review the progress and challenges of the first four phases of the

Figure 2.1: Exchanging of Communiqué by Leaders of Delegation at the Joint Ghana/Togo Boundary Commission Meeting.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 23 February 2024.

ongoing land boundary reaffirmation exercise. The committee focused on field staking of pillars to be constructed and developing a methodology for reaffirming river boundaries, an outstanding task from the earlier phases. The committee jointly drafted and agreed upon modalities for this process, addressed challenges encountered during the four phases, proposed solutions, and discussed constructing new boundary pillars to cover the reaffirmed International Boundary Line (IBL). This collaborative effort underscored the commitment of both countries to clearly define and maintain their shared boundaries, thereby promoting peaceful coexistence and cooperation.

2.4 Construction of New International Boundary Pillars

The construction of new international boundary pillars was a critical component of the Joint Ghana/Togo Land Boundary Reaffirmation Exercise. Following the finalisation and adoption of the Terms of Reference in 2023, including the design and specifications for International Boundary Pillars (IBPs) along the International Boundary Line (IBL) between Ghana and Togo, the construction phase commenced in February 2024. For this phase, the joint technical team agreed to engage third-party contractors to bid for the construction under the supervision

Figure 2.2: New Boundary Pillars Jointly Constructed along the Ghana/Togo International Boundary.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 19 April 2024.

of the joint teams. It was decided that the construction would be awarded to contractors from Togo and Ghana alternately by sections to ensure balanced participation. The first segment, covering Aflao (IBP 002) in the Ketu South Municipality to Atanve (IBP 012) in the Akatsi North Municipality of the Volta Region, was awarded to a Togolese construction company. Subsequently, in March 2024, a Ghanaian contractor was awarded a contract to construct pillars covering IBP 021 at Agotime to IBP 056 at Kuma Bala. Three joint supervision and inspection exercises were conducted to assess progress, verify adherence to technical specifications, and provide recommendations as needed.

Challenges to the reaffirmation and construction emerged as follows: The boundary pillars along the Ghana/Togo land boundary begin at Pillar 1, located on the road from Aflao to Lomé, as described in legacy documents. A short distance of approximately 100 meters separates Pillar 1 from the sea. During the construction phase, the Togolese delegation requested the addition of a new pillar between Pillar 1 and the sea, extending the azimuth from Pillar 2 through Pillar 1 to a point closer to the sea. The Ghanaian team objected, noting that this request did not conform to the legacy boundary description and could alter the existing boundary, potentially impacting established structures along that section. To avoid delays, the Ghanaian team proposed treating the request for the additional pillar as a separate matter. However, the Togolese team insisted on halting all work until their request was approved. As a result, the Togolese contractor was instructed to cease operations, leading to the suspension of both the reaffirmation exercise and the construction phase. This impasse also prevented the Ghanaian contractor, assigned to construct the stretch from IBP 021 at Agotime to IBP 056 at Kuma Bala, from commencing work. Despite significant earlier progress, only eleven (11) of the planned thirty-six (36) international boundary pillars were completed (IBP 008 to IBP 012) by the Togolese contractor. Resolving this disagreement is critical

to advancing the project, maintaining adherence to the alternating assignment framework, and preserving the integrity of the boundary as defined in the legacy agreements.

2.5 Joint Ghana/Togo Land Plenary Meeting

In October 2024, the Ghana Boundary Commissions of Ghana and the National Land Boundary Commission of Togo held a joint plenary meeting in Lomé, Togo, to address challenges impeding the continuation of the land boundary reaffirmation exercise. The key objectives of the meeting included the resolution of issues regarding the introduction of a new boundary pillar, the finalisation of the boundary line between Pillar 1 and the sea, the review of decisions from past sessions of the technical committee and the agreement on the next steps for marking the boundary. The meeting concluded with the establishment of a Joint Technical Sub-Committee tasked with: (a) Reviewing the proposals discussed during the plenary; (b) Presenting their findings and recommendations to the plenary for final decisions. This meeting underscored the commitment of both nations to collaborate effectively and ensure the smooth continuation of the boundary reaffirmation process.

2.6 Joint Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire Land Boundary Reaffirmation Technical Sub-Committee Meeting

The Ghana/Côte d'Ivoire Joint Technical Sub-Committee held two significant meetings in February and April 2024 in Accra, Ghana, and Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, respectively, to advance the reaffirmation of their international land boundary. The February meeting focused on reviewing and finalising methods for processing field data gathered during boundary surveys conducted in November and December 2023. These discussions laid the groundwork for addressing technical details and ensuring consistent data processing. The April meeting in Abidjan built upon the progress made during the February meeting in Accra, addressing

Figure 2.3: Joint Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire Technical Land Boundary Reaffirmation Committee Meeting.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 18 April 2024.

critical pending issues and further advancing the reaffirmation process. A key achievement was the agreement to use the ITRF 2014 Epoch 2022 geodetic reference frame in conjunction with the national datums of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire for the reaffirmation exercise. The meeting addressed GNSS field observations, plans for constructing new boundary pillars, and a detailed work plan with timelines to guide the reaffirmation process.

These bilateral meetings underscored the strong commitment of both countries to collaboratively address technical challenges and ensure the accuracy and mutual acceptance of the reaffirmed boundary. The adoption of modern geodetic reference frames, combined with detailed systematic planning, highlights the technical rigour and cooperative spirit that characterize this joint effort. This reaffirmation process serves as a testament to the importance of precision, partnership, and mutual respect in resolving complex boundary issues.

2.7 Joint Ghana/Burkina Faso Land Technical Meeting

As part of the processes to reaffirm the international boundary between Ghana and

Burkina Faso, the Joint Ghana/Burkina Technical Sub-Committee held two meetings in May and September 2024, in Bolgatanga (Upper East Region) and Wa (Upper West Region), respectively. The first meeting in Bolgatanga focused on developing modalities for reviewing, validating, and adopting a general methodology for reaffirming the shared boundary. The meeting also drafted and adopted a work plan for the reaffirmation exercise. The second meeting in Wa analysed and adopted seventy (70) legal and legacy documents dated from 1898 to 1983. Using information from these documents, the committee computed coordinates of existing international boundary pillars. Additionally, the meeting finalized and agreed upon a workplan, a reaffirmation methodology, required equipment, and the composition of the technical team for joint exercise.

2.8 Joint Ghana/Burkina Faso National Boundary Commissions Meeting

The Ghana Boundary Commission and the National Boundary Commission of Burkina Faso held their third joint plenary meeting from 13-17 May 2024, in Bolgatanga, Upper East Region, Ghana. This high-level engagement brought

together regional actors from both countries to enhance bilateral cooperation and address key issues concerning the joint management and reaffirmation of their shared international land boundary. The meeting focused on reviewing and validating three key documents to formalise collaboration between the two countries:

- Cross-Border Cooperation Framework Agreement;
- Framework Agreement on the Institutionalisation of periodic consultation meetings between the Boundary Commissions of Ghana and Burkina Faso;
- A Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a Joint Ghana/Burkina Faso Land Boundary Reaffirmation Committee.

Special guests at the opening ceremony included Hon. Dr Hafiz Bin Salih, Upper East Regional Minister; H.E. Boniface Gambila, Ambassador of Ghana to Burkina Faso; H.E. David Kabre, the Ambassador of Burkina Faso to Ghana; Madam Salimata Dabal, the Permanent Secretary of the National Boundary Commission of Burkina Faso; Mr Mamoud Tapily, the representative of GIZ/AUBP; and Mr Josef Reichel, the representative of the German Ambassador to Ghana. Also present were the Regional Governors of South-Central, East-Central, West-Central and South-West Regions of Burkina Faso. The meeting, sponsored by the German Government through its implementation agency, GIZ, highlighted international support for regional stability and cooperation in boundary management.

2.9 Operational Visits to Border Communities

Operational visits to border communities are vital for assessing boundary infrastructure, addressing security concerns, and engaging local communities. These visits, led by the Ghana Boundary Commission in collaboration with stakeholders, focus on safeguarding borders, promoting cross-border cooperation, and curbing illegal activities. This section summarises key visits to Dollar Power, Paga Border Post, Sapelliga, and Namoo Border Post, highlighting efforts to maintain the territorial integrity of Ghana and foster development in border areas.

a. Visit to Dollar Power, Savannah Region

The Ghana Boundary Commission facilitated a maiden operational visit by the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources to the Dollar Power enclave in the Bole District of the Savannah Region in January 2024. The visit was aimed at familiarising the Minister and the representatives of other stakeholder ministries with the security situation in the Dollar Power enclave. It was also aimed at giving the delegation the opportunity to inspect and assess the state of the international boundary pillars at the Dollar Power area, the impact of illegal mining activities in the area, as well as inspect progress made on the feeder road under construction from Ntereso to Dollar Power by the 48 Engineer Regiment of the Ghana Army. The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources assured the residents of Dollar Power

Figure 2.4: Participants at the Third Joint Ghana/Burkina Faso Boundary Commissions Plenary Meeting in Bogatanga.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 13 May 2024.

of government support and outlined efforts in place to regularise activities of the illegal miners in Dollar Power. He however entreated them to avoid mining in the Black Volta River. Present at the exercise were the Minister and Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources; the Deputy Minister for Roads and Highways; the Savannah Regional Minister; the Commissioner General of the Ghana Boundary Commission; the DCE of the Bole District Assembly; the Savannah Regional Security Council; and staff of the sector ministries and the Commission.

Figure 2.5: Cross-section of Participants during the Operational Visit to Dollar Power.



Source: Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, 31 January 2024.

b. Visit to the Paga Border Post, Upper East Region

The Commission conducted a comprehensive field assessment in 2021, focusing on the Paga Border Post and its surrounding areas in the Upper East Region. The findings highlighted

the urgent need to decongest the border area and prevent future encroachments of the International Boundary Line (IBL). In line with that visit, there was a collaborative operational visit in April 2024, undertaken by the Boundary Commissions of Ghana and Burkina Faso, alongside security representatives from the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) and the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA). This visit aimed to evaluate the security dynamics in the border region, engage with local authorities, and discuss potential measures for relocating or decongesting the Paga Border Post. The delegation also inspected some boundary pillars along the border to assess their condition. During this visit, leaders from both boundary commissions emphasised the importance of community awareness regarding the protection and maintenance of boundary infrastructure, as well as adherence to established buffer zones in line with national and international regulations. This initiative underscores a commitment to enhancing border security and fostering cooperation between Ghana and Burkina Faso, ultimately contributing to regional stability and safety.

c. Visit to Sapelliga Border Area, Upper East Region

In May 2024, the Ghana Boundary Commission facilitated an operational visit led by the Upper

Figure 2.6: The Heads of the Ghana and Burkina Faso Boundary Commissions together with other Stakeholders at the Paga Border.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 5 April 2024.

Figure 2.7: Illegal Mining Site at Boundary between Ghana/Burkina Faso at Sapelliga, Upper East Region.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 14 May 2024.

East Regional Minister, Honourable Hafiz Bin Salih, along with members of the Upper East Regional Security Council to Sapelliga, a boundary town located in the Bawku West District. The primary objective of this visit was to evaluate the condition of several boundary pillars marking the international border between Ghana and Burkina Faso, as well as to inspect the progress of a 20.4 km feeder road currently under construction along the common international boundary line (IBL) in Sapelliga. This road project is part of a broader initiative supported by the Ghana Boundary Commission in collaboration with the Ministries of Finance and Roads and Highways. Upon completion, the feeder road will function as a vital patrol route for security agencies, including the Ghana Armed Forces and the Ghana Immigration Service, enhancing their ability to monitor and secure the border area against potential extremist activities.

During this visit, Minister Hafiz Bin Salih also addressed illegal miners engaged in “galamsey” activities along the local boundary line. He emphasised the importance of obtaining proper

authorization and documentation for mining operations to prevent environmental degradation and ensure compliance with legal standards. The Minister highlighted that illegal mining threatens the integrity of boundary markers and poses national security risks, as extremist groups may exploit such activities to fund their operations.

d. Visit to the Namoo Border Post, Upper East Region

In May 2024, the Ghana Boundary Commission (GhBC) spearheaded a critical inspection of Boundary Pillars 551, 552, and 553 located at Namoo, in the Bongo District of the Upper East Region. This initiative aimed to directly address reports of encroachments along the Ghana-Burkina Faso border and to educate local communities on pertinent cross-border issues. The inspection unveiled significant encroachments by residents along the international boundary line, highlighting the urgent need for community awareness and engagement. Notably, it was discovered that one of the buildings belonging to the Ghana Immigration Service had been compromised,

Figure 2.8: International Boundary Pillar Inspection by the Commissioner-General at the Namoo Border, Bongo District on the Ghana/Burkina Faso Border.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 15 May 2024.

underscoring vulnerabilities in border security. During this visit, the delegation seized the opportunity to engage with local Chiefs, Elders, and residents of Namoo. They emphasised the critical importance of safeguarding boundary infrastructure and respecting territorial demarcations. The Commissioner General of GhBC, Major General Emmanuel Kotia, along with local leaders like Mrs. Rita Atanga, the Bongo District Chief Executive, urged the community to actively prevent further encroachments into buffer zones. The discussions also focused on fostering cross-border cooperation and promoting peaceful coexistence among neighbouring communities. This proactive approach not only aims to enhance security but also seeks to cultivate a sense of responsibility among residents regarding their role in maintaining the integrity of national borders.

2.10 Conclusion

In 2024, the Ghana Boundary Commission actively worked to secure and reaffirm Ghana's international land boundaries. Through joint reaffirmation exercises, operational surveys, and multi-agency assessments, the Commission addressed issues such as the condition of boundary pillars, border security challenges, and discrepancies in surveyed distances and historical records. These initiatives, carried out in collaboration with key stakeholders and supported by diplomatic efforts, demonstrated Ghana's commitment to safeguarding its territorial sovereignty and advancing effective boundary management. The international land boundary activities of the Commission emphasised a cooperative approach, enhancing collaboration with neighbouring countries to strengthen peace and security along shared borders.



SECTION THREE

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME BOUNDARY ACTIVITIES

3.1 Introduction

Ghana shares maritime boundaries with Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. The international maritime boundaries along the Atlantic Ocean, similar to the land boundaries, have been major sources of disputes across many African states. The numerous resource discoveries along these maritime frontiers have further heightened disputes across the largely undelimited boundaries in the region. Ghana has not been exempt from these conflicts,

resolving one notable case through arbitration. Recognising the importance strengthening the economic, political, social, cultural, and historical bonds that connect Ghana with neighbouring countries, as well as adhering to regional, continental, and international frameworks for the effective boundary management, the Ghana Boundary Commission has undertaken various initiatives. These activities, carried out in collaboration with key stakeholders and partners, aim to ensure the proper administration of the maritime boundaries of Ghana.

Map 3.1: The Extent of the Maritime Domain of Ghana.



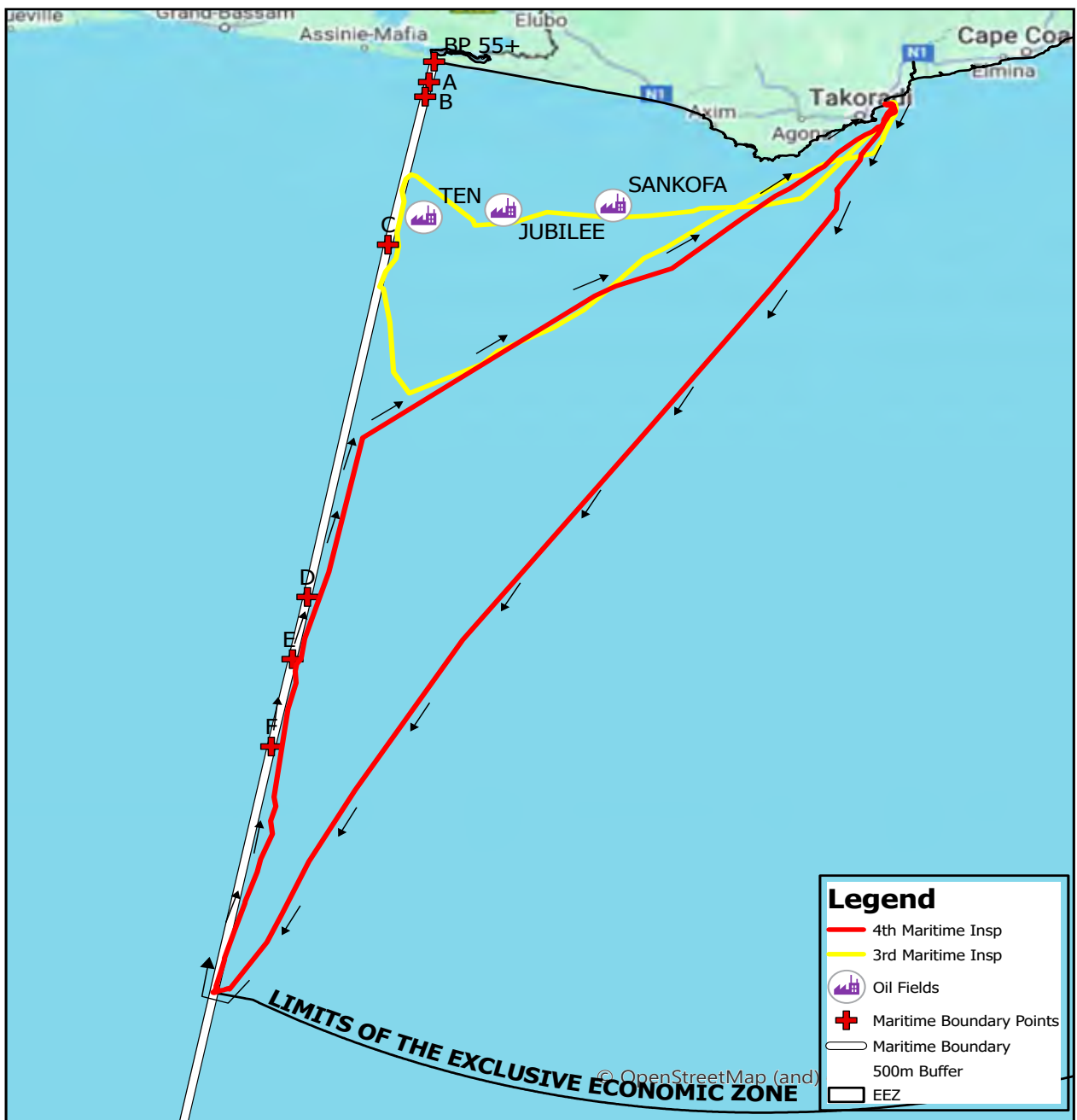
Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 December 2023.

3.2 Maritime Boundary Inspections

In 2024, the Ghana Boundary Commission, in partnership with the Ghana Navy, conducted two significant Maritime Boundary Inspections (MBIs) along the western maritime frontier of Ghana in April and November. These inspections are the third and fourth conducted jointly by the two institutions. They involved rigorous surveillance of the maritime boundary

established by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) ruling in 2017, extending to the limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Ghana. The inspections were crucial for ensuring adherence to the ITLOS ruling and for monitoring compliance along the international maritime boundary with Côte d'Ivoire to safeguard the territorial waters of Ghana. Building on the successful inspections from March and November 2023, which

Map 3.2: Overview of the Ghana Boundary Commission/Ghana Navy Western Maritime Boundary Inspection Route.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 30 November 2024.

Figure 3.1: Aerial View of Ghana Naval Ship during the GhBC Western Maritime Boundary Inspection.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 30 November 2024.

covered 33 nautical miles (61 Km) along the maritime boundary line, the two inspections in 2024 spanned approximately 167 nautical miles (309.04 km) along the Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire maritime boundary. Thus, the Commission has now comprehensively inspected the entire 200 nautical miles of the EEZ of Ghana adjacent to Côte d'Ivoire.

The team utilised cutting-edge technologies, including shipborne radar and the DJI MAVIC 3 Enterprise drone, to conduct a thorough assessment of the maritime boundary line during their inspection. Both inspections revealed no boundary violations or illegal activities, confirming that all oil exploration efforts were in compliance with established protocols. This joint initiative underscores the unwavering commitment of the Ghana Boundary Commission and the Ghana Navy to maintain vigilance and protect the nation's international maritime boundaries. Moreover, these exercises highlight the critical need for ongoing

monitoring and surveillance by the Ghana Navy to safeguard the territorial integrity of Ghana's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The success of these inspections strategically positions the Commission and the Ghana Navy for effective planning and execution of their inaugural joint maritime boundary inspection with Côte d'Ivoire, slated for 2025. This collaboration not only reinforces efforts to promote compliance but also ensures maritime security within the Gulf of Guinea.

3.3 Implementation of the 2017 ITLOS Ruling

As part of efforts towards the implementation of the 2017 International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) ruling concerning Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, the Ghana Boundary Commission hosted the Fourth Joint Ghana/Côte d'Ivoire Boundary Commission Plenary Meeting in Accra in November 2024. Key outcomes included the adoption of Framework Agreements and

Figure 3.2: Pictures from the Fourth Joint Ghana/Côte d'Ivoire Boundary Commissions Plenary Meeting in Accra.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 4 November 2024.

Procedures for the implementation of the ITLOS ruling on the maritime boundary and the reaffirmation of land boundaries. The meeting, co-chaired by Major General Emmanuel Kotia, Commissioner General of the Ghana Boundary Commission, and Mr. Diakalidia Konate, Executive Secretary of the National Boundary Commission of Côte d'Ivoire, strengthened cross-border cooperation between the two countries. Technical Committees were established to finalise these agreements for ratification by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries. The meeting also outlined phased plans for joint boundary reaffirmation in 2025 and scheduled joint maritime inspections in collaboration with the navies of both countries. This significant milestone reflects the commitment of the Commission to fostering harmonious bilateral relations and promoting effective boundary governance.

3.4 Ghana/Togo Maritime Boundary Negotiations

Ghana and Togo have been engaged in negotiations to resolve a maritime boundary dispute that dates to 2018. From the Ghana side, the Ghana Boundary Commission is leading these efforts, which have recently reached the presidential level, awaiting further directives from the leaders of both countries. The aim is to finalise a Maritime Boundary Delimitation,

which would officially delineate the maritime boundaries and potentially unlock economic opportunities in the region, particularly for fishing and oil exploration activities that have been restricted due to the ongoing dispute.

3.5 Joint Ghana/Nigeria Maritime Technical Committee Meeting

The Ghana Boundary Commission and the National Boundary Commission of Nigeria held their second meeting on 26 November 2024, at the Labadi Beach Hotel in Accra. The meeting focused on discussing technical issues on the common maritime boundary between the two countries. The meeting determined the number, composition and roles of members of a Joint Maritime Technical Committee. A 14-member technical committee comprising seven (7) representatives from each country was then constituted. It was however agreed that the Committee may co-opt additional members as and when needed during the work of the committee. Additionally, the meeting endorsed a proposed 2025 Workplan for the Joint Technical Committee. At the end of the meeting, the Heads of the two Boundary Commissions signed a communique on the common maritime boundary. Members present at the meeting included representatives from the Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Ghana Maritime Authority,

Figure 3.3: Pictures from the Second Joint Ghana/Nigeria Boundary Commissions Plenary Meeting in Accra.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 26 November 2024.

Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, Ghana Navy, and the Ghana Boundary Commission, the National Boundary Commission of Nigeria, Nigerian Navy, the Nigerian Hydrographic Agency, the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission of Nigeria.

3.6 Conclusion

The Ghana Boundary Commission demonstrated unwavering commitment to fostering peaceful and collaborative management of the maritime boundaries of Ghana. Through strategic inspections, collaborative plenary meetings, and ongoing negotiations, the Commission

achieved significant milestones, including ensuring compliance with the 2017 ITLOS ruling, adopting frameworks for implementing maritime boundary agreements, and facilitating cross-border cooperation with Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Nigeria and Benin. These efforts underscore Ghana's dedication to leveraging regional and international frameworks for maritime governance while prioritising economic, political, and cultural ties with neighbouring countries. Moving forward, the Commission will continue to play a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral relations, ensuring compliance, and achieving amicable resolutions to outstanding boundary disputes, thereby fostering regional stability and sustainable development.



SECTION FOUR

RESEARCH-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES

4.1 Introduction

In 2024, research remained central to advancing the mandate of the Ghana Boundary Commission. Aligned with the Commission's fifth strategic objective, the GhBC conducted research aimed at delivering evidence-based advice on potential or emerging threats along Ghana's international boundaries. The GhBC focused on gathering critical data on Ghana's international boundaries to enable timely interventions. Recognising the importance of knowledge creation in a field with significant gaps, the Commission produced policy briefs and articles to enhance understanding of boundary management and support informed decision-making. With an emphasis on human security as a cornerstone of its mandate, the GhBC prioritised threat assessments in several communities along Ghana's international boundaries. Additionally, the Commission initiated the search for legacy documents and collected relevant data, which enhanced the joint land boundary reaffirmation initiatives. These activities played a vital role in securing Ghana's international land and maritime boundaries while advancing the implementation

of regional and continental frameworks on boundary governance. This section highlights key research activities conducted in 2024 to further the Commission's mandate.

4.2 Search and Retrieval of Boundary Legacy Documents

Legacy documents, which are archival records defining the international boundaries of states, serve as a primary reference for effective boundary reaffirmation, delimitation and boundary negotiation. In 2024, the Commission collaborated with key institutions to secure legacy documents to support operations along the international boundaries. Among the institutions engaged were the Public Records and Archives Administration Department (PRAAD) and libraries such as the Balme Library University of Ghana, the Parliament of Ghana Library, and the George Padmore Library. The Commission successfully identified and obtained relevant legacy documents from PRAAD and the Balme Library at the University of Ghana, Legon. Table 4.1 provides a detailed list of the documents secured.

Table 4.1: List of Boundary Legacy Documents Secured.

Serial	Documents Secured	Description
1.	Arrangement between Great Britain and France Fixing the Boundary Between the British and French Possessions on the Gold Coast (signed in Paris, July 1893).	Culled from 'The Gold Coast Handbook 1928'
2.	Ghana/Ivory Coast Boundary, 1979	Extracted from a book titled 'The African Boundaries: A Legal and Diplomatic Encyclopaedia'
3.	Ghana/Togo Boundary, 1979	Extracted from a book titled 'The African Boundaries: A Legal and Diplomatic Encyclopaedia'
4.	Ghana/Upper Volta Boundary, 1979	Extracted from a book titled 'The African Boundaries: A Legal and Diplomatic Encyclopaedia'.
5.	Togoland Boundary Commission 1927-1929: Final Report of The Two Commissioners, 1929	Protocol between Ghana and Togo which describes the frontier separating the two countries.

Serial	Documents Secured	Description
6.	Matters Concerning Ghanaians and French Togoland Nations Living along the International Boundary 1958-1959, 1958	Details human relationship between residents on both sides of the international boundary.
7.	Boundary Dispute Togoland, 1921	Reports and other forms of documentation addressing boundary issues between Ghana and neighbouring countries, particularly Togo.

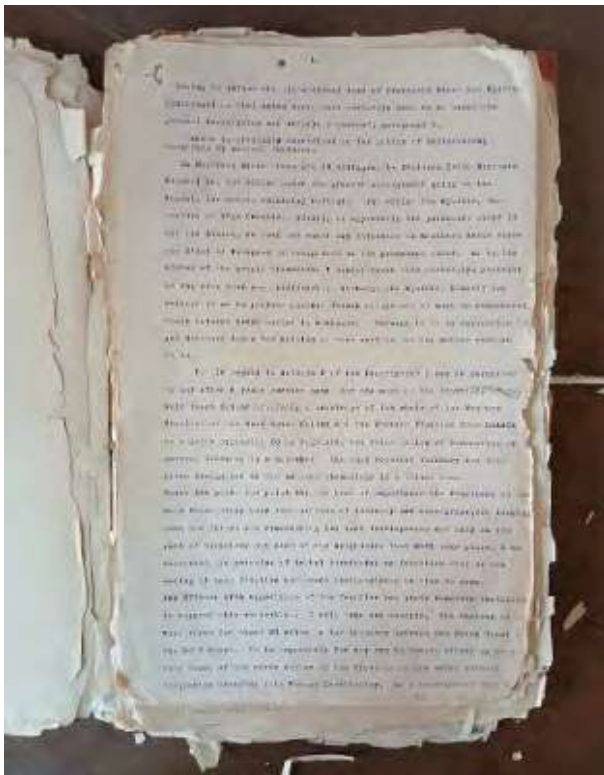
Source: Ghana Boundary Commission Data, 31 December 2024.

The search for legacy documents revealed an important finding: relevant information on Ghana's international boundaries is available in the regional offices of PRAAD. Consequently, the Commission plans to collaborate closely with these regional offices to obtain and secure additional legacy documents critical for operations along the international boundaries.

During the 2024 search for legacy documents, the Commission faced certain challenges. The primary issue was the difficulty in accessing relevant legacy documents, despite engaging with multiple institutions. Ultimately, these documents were only secured from the PRAAD

and the Balme Library at the University of Ghana. To address this, the Commission recognises the need to engage external institutions such as the British Archives Department and the Ordnance Survey Library in the United Kingdom to obtain additional legacy documents. Another challenge involved the fragile condition of the documents. Dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many legacy documents have suffered from inadequate storage, rendering them decrepit and, in some cases, torn. The Commission plans to digitalise the records and acquire appropriate storage equipment, including map cabinets and other related tools, to ensure their long-term protection and usability.

Figure 4.1: Sample of a frayed Legacy Document.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, July 2024.

4.3 GIZ-Funded Research on Community Resilience and Transnational Organised Crimes

The fifth strategic objective of the Ghana Boundary Commission emphasises the importance of evidence-based field research for decision making. In view of this, the Commission with funding support from GIZ, undertook field research in three border communities: Saru, and Dollar Power in the Savannah Region, and Dorimon in the Upper West Region. The research which formed part of the implementation of the GIZ “Mitigating the Destabilizing Effects of Transnational Organised Crime” (MTOC) Project aimed to identify and categorise the main illicit economic activities as well as potential sustainable livelihood opportunities in the three communities. The findings from this research served as a foundation for follow-up community sensitisation exercises undertaken subsequently by the Commission.

Key outcomes from the study include the following:

- **Illicit Economic Activities:** The main illicit economic activities identified in the three communities were smuggling of cashew and cigarettes from Côte d'Ivoire into Ghana, illegal mining, cattle rustling, and sex trafficking.
- **Security:** The main security issues identified include farmer-herder tensions, illegal mining activities, cattle rustling, unapproved border crossing points and petty thievery.
- **Other challenges identified** were poor road network to border communities, poor telecommunication in border areas as well as poor or lack of social infrastructure such as schools, clinics and security posts in the border areas.

Alternative Livelihood Opportunities: Several alternative livelihood opportunities identified

include skills training particularly targeting the youth and women groups and establishing processing facilities to transform raw materials such as shea butter into processed goods. Additionally, the development of irrigation systems along the Black Volta River were identified as intervention areas to enhance agriculture production in the border communities. The field research conducted recommended the following:

- **Stakeholder dialogue:** Facilitate a dialogue on the farmer-herder tensions chaired by a neutral institution such as the National Peace Council. This dialogue should establish a mediation system to address conflicts, protect crops from cattle damage, and mitigate risks of transnational organised crime.
- **Community sensitisation:** Conduct quarterly awareness programmes along the

Figure 4.2: Focus Group Discussions from the GIZ/MTOC Field Research conducted in Dollar Power, Saru, and Dorimon communities in the Savannah and Upper West Regions.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 21 August 2024.

boundaries to educate residents on their responsibilities in protecting international boundaries and preventing transnational organised crime.

- **Irrigation Development:** Establish irrigation systems along the Black Volta River to support dry-season vegetable farming. This initiative aims to attract youth into sustainable livelihoods and enhance resilience against transnational organised crime.
- **Border crossing points:** Increase the number of approved border crossing points in the Savannah and Upper West Regions. Currently, only one crossing exists in the Bole/Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District, with just two approved routes in the Upper West Region.
- **Community mining license:** Expedite the finalisation of a community mining license for Dollar Power to ensure proper regulation of mining activities in that area.

The research provided comprehensive and relevant information to support awareness campaigns and community sensitisation efforts on transnational organised crime in border communities which usually serve as entry and exit points into the country. One main conclusion from the activity is the need to conduct such research in other border communities to address issues regarding transnational organised crimes.

4.4 Social Intervention Projects in Border Communities

The GhBC recognises that border communities play a critical role in national security and thus impoverished border communities could negatively impact the security of the country. Driven by this, the Commission undertakes human security research in border communities along the international boundary of Ghana. The research aimed to identify and assess the needs of deprived border communities along the international boundaries of Ghana and facilitate relevant interventions. The Commission, since 2021 identified human security needs of border communities categorised into five key

areas including education, healthcare, socio-economic infrastructure development, security and environment. The Commission, as part of efforts towards addressing these human security needs, undertook social intervention projects in underserved border communities. The following are social intervention projects undertaken by the Commission in 2024.

a. Rehabilitation and Commissioning of the Leklebi-Kame Health Centre

The Commission in 2023 commenced the rehabilitation of the Leklebi-Kame Health Centre located along the Ghana/Togo international boundary. The project funded by the ECOWAS Commission through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration was completed in 2024. The total cost of the project is USD89,324.83 and covered reroofing of the facility, repair of cracked walls and floor, construction of a septic tank and an auxiliary 6-seater toilet facility, plastering, repainting, electrical installation, fixing of windows and doors, tiling and fixing sanitary appliances as well as the supply of medical equipment. The rehabilitated health centre which would benefit communities on both sides of the boundary was handed over to the community at a brief ceremony in August 2024. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, the Commissioner General of the Ghana Boundary Commission, the Director, Free Movement of Persons and Migration – ECOWAS Commission, the Afadjato South District Chief Executive, and the Chief of Leklebi-Kame.

b. Construction of Three-Unit Classroom Block at New Town

As part of activities towards facilitating the development of border communities, the Ghana Boundary Commission began constructing a three-unit classroom block with a six-unit toilet facility at New Town, a border community along the Ghana/Cote

Figure 4.3: Pictures from the Commissioning and Handing Over of the Leklebi Kame Clinic in the Volta Region.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 11 August 2024.

d'Ivoire boundary in the Jomoro Municipality of the Western Region. The community is well known for being the point at which the land boundary between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire ends and where the maritime boundary between the two countries begins. The construction followed an earlier reconnaissance mission to the community to engage key stakeholders on the project. The project which is fully funded by the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) at a total cost of 1.8 million Ghana cedis would enhance education in the area.

c. Construction of Feeder Roads to Dollar Power and Sapelliga

Noting the ongoing challenge assessing certain boundary areas in Ghana, the GhBC in 2021 facilitated the awarding of a 78 million Ghana Cedis contract by the Ministry of Roads and Highways to the 48 Engineer Regiment of the Ghana Armed Force for the construction of feeder

roads leading to Dollar Power, Sapelliga, Kari, Kuntori and patrol routes along the International Boundary Line. The project which commenced in June 2023 by the 48 Engineers Regiment, continued into 2024. The 25km feeder road project aims to strengthen border patrol operations by enhancing accessibility along the international boundary line. The Commission facilitated inspections to ascertain the progress of work of the feeder roads at Sapelliga and Dollar Power. This road project is part of a broader initiative supported by the Ghana Boundary Commission in collaboration with the Ministries of Finance and Roads and Highways. The roads are expected to boost economic activities within the beneficiary communities and promote overall development in the areas while ensuring effective security and border management. Upon completion, the feeder roads are expected to serve as a vital patrol route for security agencies, including

Figure 4.4: Ongoing Works on the Feeder Road at Dollar Power, Savannah Region.



Source: Ghana Armed Forces 48 Engineers Regiment, 8 August 2024.

the Ghana Armed Forces and the Ghana Immigration Service, enhancing their ability to monitor and secure the border area against extremist activities.

4.5 Research Publications of the Commission

To augment the literature on border governance and management in Africa, the Commission developed three policy briefs and two articles on the following subject matter:

- a. **Greening the International Land Boundary of Ghana: A Multi-stakeholder Approach (Kotia & Sharon Samson-Oje, 2024)** – This policy brief discusses the critical issue of deforestation along the international land boundary of Ghana, particularly the removal of teak trees due to activities such as illegal mining. The paper advocates for a greener international boundary for Ghana through the planting of teak trees. This advocacy

aligns with joint land reaffirmation exercises between Ghana and neighbouring states.

- b. **Transboundary Conflict Prevention in Ghana: The Role of Border Communities (Kotia & Bonsoh, 2024)** – This paper focuses on the prevalence of transboundary conflicts in Africa, primarily driven by competition for shared natural resources and control over farmlands. It emphasises that border communities can play crucial roles in preventing and resolving these conflicts due to their unique proximity to international boundaries and similarities in cultural values and practices across boundaries. The paper outlines policy areas to address transboundary conflicts. These include promotion of cross-border trade and agriculture, inclusive and developmental initiatives, promotion of preventive diplomacy and regional cooperation, and empowerment of border communities.

c. Building Border Community Resilience against Transnational Organised Crime: The Case of Saru, Dollar Power and Dorimon (Kotia & Tsotorvor, 2024) –

Border communities play a central role in the operations of transnational organised crime (TOC). However, efforts to enhance border communities' resilience and ability to combat TOC remains insufficient. While raising awareness in border communities about TOC has been ongoing, it must be complemented by providing alternative livelihood options to reduce the appeal of engaging in criminal activities. This policy brief advocates for increased efforts to offer sustainable livelihood opportunities to border communities as critical components of combating TOC. It also highlights the urgent need for socio-economic development of border areas to diminish their attractiveness to criminals engaged in TOC activities. Using Saru, Dollar Power, and Dorimon as case studies, this paper emphasises the importance of integrating alternative livelihoods into broader strategies aimed at addressing TOC in Ghana's border regions.

d. Building Border Community Resilience against Violent Extremism: The Role of the Ghana Boundary Commission (Kotia & Bonsoh, 2024) –

Ghana remains vulnerable to violent extremism and terrorism due to the proximity of the country to Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, which have seen the rise of terrorist groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda affiliates. This risk is particularly pronounced in border communities where issues such as weak governance, inadequate infrastructure, and socio-economic disparities persist. This paper examines the initiatives of the Ghana Boundary Commission aimed at strengthening the resilience of border communities against the threat of violent extremism. The paper puts forward the following recommendations: construct additional roads to improve access to remote border communities; develop and implement a regional policy to

address land ownership across international boundaries; and strengthen trust between local government structures and border residents through sustained and meaningful community engagement.

e. Accelerating the Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area and the Role of the Ghana Boundary Commission (Kotia & Abugabe, 2024) –

This paper explores the nexus between the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and international boundary management, framed within the mandate of the Ghana Boundary Commission. It highlights the Commission's critical role in facilitating the realisation of AfCFTA while offering key recommendations. The paper emphasises that addressing shared international boundaries in AfCFTA discussions has the potential to enhance African markets and drive the continent's economic transformation.

4.6 Conclusion

The Ghana Boundary Commission in 2024, effectively utilised research to advance the implementation of the mandate, addressing knowledge gaps and operational challenges. The retrieval of key legacy documents strengthened boundary management efforts, while GIZ-sponsored field research provided actionable insights into illicit activities, security risks, and alternative livelihood opportunities in border communities. The successful rehabilitation of the Leklebi-Kame Health Facility demonstrated the commitment of the Commission to socio-economic development of underserved border communities. Additionally, publications by GhBC contributed to discourses on border governance discourse as well as offering strategies for conflict prevention and border community resilience. These initiatives underscore the proactive approach of the Commission to safeguarding the boundaries of Ghana, fostering regional stability, and supporting peace and security.



SECTION FIVE

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS, PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION

5.1 Introduction

The complex and interconnected nature of international boundary governance and management necessitates coordinated strategies that unify the diverse efforts of stakeholders under a cohesive framework. Recognising the critical importance of optimising and leveraging institutional, financial, technological, and administrative resources, the Ghana Boundary Commission in 2024 actively sought collaboration with various stakeholders to fulfil its mandate. The Commission intensified outreach by engaging new stakeholders while reinforcing existing partnerships through national, regional, and international initiatives. At the national level, the Commission collaborated with multiple Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), including the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources (MLNR), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFARI), the Ministry of National Security (MNS), the Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Department (MoJAGD), the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF), the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB), and the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) among several others. The extensive engagement also encompassed local Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

At the regional and international levels, the GhBC fostered relationships with boundary commissions from neighbouring countries such as Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and other national boundary structures in West Africa. Additionally, the Commission engaged with key institutions and organisations such as the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP);

Conciliation Resources; and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). Engagements were also successfully conducted with several Development Partners including the German Government through the implementing agency, GIZ; the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); and the Embassies of Japan, France and China, all based in Accra. This section of the report details the diverse engagements of GhBC with its expanding network of stakeholders and partners, highlighting the commitment of the Commission to effective boundary management through collaboration.

5.2 Collaboration with Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Collaboration with key ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) is central to the effective mandate implementation of the Ghana Boundary Commission. In 2024, the Commission strengthened partnerships with various MDAs to address boundary-related challenges, enhance operational efficiency, and foster sustainable development in border communities. Specifically, the Commission engaged with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, and the Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Department. These collaborations encompassed a range of activities including technical and logistical support, joint operations, capacity building initiatives, and policy formulation. Each partnership underscored a collective commitment among stakeholders to safeguarding the territorial integrity of Ghana while promoting regional cooperation. This strategic approach not only addresses immediate boundary issues but also lays the groundwork for long-term stability and development.

a. Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

The Honourable Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Samuel Abu Jinapor, who serves as the Chairperson of the GhBC Governing Body, demonstrated unwavering support for the Commission throughout the year. This commitment has been pivotal as the Commission engaged in collaborative efforts with various agencies and departments under the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) such as the Survey Department of the Lands Commission and the Ghana Geological Survey Authority during operational and mapping surveys conducted in 2024. In a significant development, the newly appointed Director of Human Resources at the Ministry visited the Commission as part of his familiarization tour, seeking to understand the operations of the Commission better. Furthermore, the GhBC Director of Administration actively participated in meetings organised by the Ministry for all Human Resource Directors and Managers, fostering inter-agency collaboration. In June 2024, the Commission joined other agencies within the Ministry to commemorate the fourth edition of the nationwide Green Ghana Day at Burma Camp. The theme for the year, "Growing for a Greener Tomorrow," aimed at raising awareness about tree planting and environmental conservation among citizens.

Figure 5.1: GhBC Staff with the Sector Minister at the Commemoration of the Green Ghana at Burma Camp.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 6 June 2024.

b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFARI) was instrumental in supporting the Commission's drive of implementation of social interventions in border communities by facilitating funding from the ECOWAS Cross-Border Cooperation Programme for the rehabilitation of a health facility in Leklebi-Kame, Volta Region. The project was successfully completed and officially handed over to the community in August 2024. In addition to this significant collaborative achievement, the Ministry facilitated crucial diplomatic engagements between the Commission and neighbouring countries. It also provided consular services to ensure

Figure 5.2: Commissioning and Hand Over of the Leklebi Kame Health Facility by the GhBC and MFARI.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 11 August 2024.

smooth travel for Commission personnel and managed diplomatic and protocol services to enhance interactions between the GhBC and neighbouring boundary commissions. Senior officials of the Ministry, specifically the Director of the Legal and Treaties Bureau and the Director of the Consular and Humanitarian Affairs Bureau played vital roles as members of the GhBC Land and Maritime boundary technical committees. Their contributions were instrumental during joint technical meetings with neighbouring countries, contributing to enhanced collaboration and cross-border cooperation.

c. Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Attorney-General

The Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General was pivotal in supporting the Commission throughout 2024. Notably, two Chief State Attorneys who are integral members of the maritime and land boundary technical committees of the Commission, consistently contributed their legal expertise during collaborative meetings with neighbouring countries. Their dedication ensured that valuable insights were shared, enhancing the effectiveness of these discussions. Additionally, the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General played a crucial role in presenting the new GhBC

Bill to Parliament, demonstrating commitment to supporting the legislative progresses which led towards the successful passage of the GhBC Bill in December 2024. This concerted effort reflects the overarching goal of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's to strengthen legal frameworks and foster cooperation in regional matters.

5.3 Collaboration with the Ghana Armed Forces

In 2024, the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) proved to be an invaluable ally to the Commission, delivering essential human and logistical support. They not only seconded senior personnel to the Commission but also, through the Ghana Army, Ghana Navy, and Ghana Air Force ensured security for GhBC staff and partners during field operations and border community sensitisation exercises. Each service played a critical role: the Army provided security escorts, the Navy collaborated on maritime boundary inspections, and the Air Force facilitated airlifts for Commission delegations to remote border areas with challenging access routes. The diverse support not only reflects a robust partnership between GAF and GhBC but also underscores the continued commitment of the GAF to the Commission towards enhance operational effectiveness and support national initiatives.

Figure 5.3: GhBC Sensitisation Team with the Security Escort from 48 Engineer Regiment at the bank of the Black Volta at Ntereso enroute to Dollar Power at Ntereso River bank, Savannah Region.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 12 October 2024.

a. Ghana Army

The 48 Engineers Regiment of the Ghana Armed Forces collaborated with the Commission in advancing infrastructure development in border communities throughout the year. They supported the Commission in the ongoing construction of feeder roads at Dollar Power in the Savannah Region and Sapelliga in the Upper East Region. Additionally, they undertook significant refurbishment of a health facility in Leklebi-Kame, located in the Volta Region. In a notable expansion of their contributions, the regiment in the latter part of 2024 commenced the construction of a three-classroom block at New Town in the Jomoro District of the Western Region. The 66 Artillery Regiment also made substantial contributions by providing essential security escorts for the field teams of the Commission during their technical operations, field research and community sensitisation activities in various communities in the Oti, Savannah, Upper East and Upper West Regions of Ghana. The Commission further relied on the escort services of the 10 Mechanized Battalion and the 6 Battalion of Infantry during joint initiatives with Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire. These collaborations included security escorts for field research and sensitisation related to the GIZ/GhBC M-TOC Project. Moreover, several senior officers from the Ghana Army have been seconded to support the Commission, greatly enhancing operational efficiency and collaboration.

b. Ghana Navy

The Commission strengthened collaboration with the Ghana Navy with respect to the international maritime boundary of Ghana. In April and November, the two institutions conducted joint maritime boundary inspections along the Ghana/Côte d'Ivoire international maritime boundary, reinforcing the implementation of the 2017 ITLOS ruling between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. These inspections were critical in observing any potential violations along the established maritime boundary.

Figure 5.4: Maritime Boundary Inspection with the Ghana Navy.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 30 November 2024.

In appreciation for the unwavering support of the Ghana Navy, the Commissioner General of GhBC, Major General EW Kotia, led a delegation on a courtesy visit to the Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral IA Yakubu. The visit not only acknowledged the valuable contributions of the Navy to the Commission but also deepened the

Figure 5.5: Courtesy Visit by GhBC Delegation to the Chief of the Naval Staff, Ghana Navy.



Source: Ghana Naval Headquarters, 4 June 2024.

partnership between the two institutions. As a key member of the GhBC Maritime Technical Committee, the Ghana Navy participated in technical meetings relating to the international maritime boundaries of Ghana with neighbouring countries, providing useful insights to discussions between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo and Ghana and Nigeria. The Navy further assisted the Commission with information sharing, maritime boundary negotiations, and capacity building efforts solidifying a robust foundation for future collaborations. In a reciprocal effort to strengthen the partnership, the Commission supported the capacity building efforts of the Ghana Navy by providing drone flight training at Afienya in collaboration with the Drone Squadron of the Navy.

c. Ghana Air Force

The Ghana Boundary Commission and the Ghana Air Force maintained a strong working relationship throughout the year. The latter played a vital role in supporting the survey, mapping, and boundary operations of the Commission, particularly in the more inaccessible remote border areas. Their support included airlift capabilities for operational surveys, aerial reconnaissance exercises, and meetings, all of which underscored a shared commitment to national security and development. Missions of these nature are resource- and capital-

intensive; without the assistance of the Ghana Air Force, the Commission would have incurred significantly higher costs and faced extended timelines for its operations. The invaluable support of the Air Force thus not only streamlined these efforts but also significantly reduced both costs and timelines. This underscores the critical importance of ongoing collaboration to ensure the success and efficiency of the future missions of the Commission. In recognition of this vital partnership, the Commissioner General of GhBC, Major General EW Kotia, led a delegation to visit to the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal F. Bekoe, in May 2024. The visit formally acknowledged and expressed gratitude for the Ghana Air Force's unwavering support to the Commission.

Figure 5.6: Airlift by Ghana Air Force for GhBC Operational Activities.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 January 2024.

Figure 5.7: Courtesy Call by GhBC on the Chief of the Air Staff, Ghana Air Force.



Source: Ghana Air Force Headquarters, 8 May 2024.

5.4 Collaboration with the Ghana Immigration Service

The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) significantly enhanced the Commission's operational capabilities. This was marked by an increase in GIS seconded personnel to two, including a senior officer, and active collaboration in GhBC operational missions along Ghana's International Boundary Line (IBL), particularly in border communities such as Paga, Namoo, Wli, Hamile, and Sapelliga. GIS Sector Commands contributed both personnel and vehicles to support the Commission in locating and surveying boundary pillars during the Joint Land Boundary Reaffirmation exercises conducted along the Eastern and Northern boundary corridors. Moreover, the GIS facilitated smooth entry and exit for personnel from the boundary commissions of Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso at Ghana's border crossings during joint reaffirmation exercises and bilateral meetings. Additionally, GhBC was engaged to be part of series of national and sub-regional meetings under the GIS "Strengthening Border Security" (SBS) project, which is funded by the European Union through the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). This initiative not only enhances border security but also reinforces Ghana's commitment to regional stability and cooperation in effective border and migration management. The collaborative efforts between GIS and GhBC exemplify a proactive approach to addressing border security challenges and promoting effective border management.

5.5 Collaboration with the National Intelligence Bureau

To support the staffing capabilities of the Commission, the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) maintained two GhBC seconded personnel in 2024. In alignment with the commitment to supporting the strategic goal of strengthening the institutional capacity of the Commission, the bureau conducted thorough vetting and validation processes for newly recruited staff, ensuring that only qualified individuals were

integrated into the Commission. Furthermore, the NIB played a crucial role in providing ground intelligence throughout various field operations, including before, during, and after these activities. Their support extended to conducting field assessments and audits of boundary pillars and markers, which are vital for maintaining national integrity. Additionally, the Bureau supplied timely intelligence regarding infractions along the international boundaries of Ghana, empowering the Commission to respond effectively and take necessary actions. This collaboration not only strengthened the operational framework of GhBC but also enhanced the ability of the Commission to safeguard the territorial sovereignty of the country.

5.6 Collaboration with the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation

The Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) remained committed to the Ghana Boundary Commission in 2024 by providing substantial financial, technical and capacity building support toward the operations of the Commission. Notably, GNPC sponsored two officers of the Commission to attend the Summer Academy on the Continental Shelf (SACS) in Arusha, Tanzania, in April 2024. Additionally, five staff members participated in specialised training programmes in the United Kingdom and France focused on Maritime Delimitation and Boundary Dispute Resolution. GNPC also played a pivotal role in supporting GhBC to facilitate Joint Maritime Boundary Technical Meetings between the Ghana Boundary Commission and the National Boundary Commissions of Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria in October and November, respectively. This support underscores GNPC's commitment to enhancing regional cooperation and effectively resolving maritime boundary issues.

The Commission further collaborated with GNPC to conduct a drone surveillance exercise aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of drone technology for offshore infrastructure assessment. This joint exercise tested the capabilities of the

GhBC Delta Quad drone, equipped with RGB Night Hawk surveillance cameras, on an offshore platform located 15 kilometers from Saltpond. The exercise aimed to assess the drone's ability to deliver high-quality, actionable data for structural monitoring. The Delta Quad drone exhibited excellent performance, providing high-resolution visuals that facilitated a detailed inspection of the platform's structural components. The operational range and stability of the drone ensured comprehensive coverage, while the RGB Night Hawk cameras enhanced data collection quality under various lighting conditions. The successful execution of this exercise confirmed the reliability of drone technology for infrastructure assessments, offering GNPC valuable insights into the condition of the platform and ensuring compliance with operational and safety standards. Moreover, this initiative showcased the potential for drones to become standard tools for offshore monitoring, highlighting their efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The collaboration between GhBC and GNPC for this exercise emphasised the strategic importance of integrating advanced technology into maritime and infrastructure management. The success of this initiative lays a solid foundation for future applications of drone technology, with recommendations to expand its use, conduct regular assessments, and explore additional capabilities such as thermal imaging and LiDAR sensors to further

enhance operational outcomes. Overall, the collaboration with GNPC not only strengthened the operational capabilities of the Commission but also contributed to the broader goal of ensuring peaceful and cooperative relations with neighbouring countries.

5.7 Engagement with Neighbouring Boundary Commissions

The GhBC engaged in joint initiatives with the Boundary Commissions of Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso to strengthen collaboration and enhance cross-border cooperation. Details of these activities are outlined below:

a. Collaboration with Togo

The Ghana Boundary Commission and the National Land Boundary Commission of Togo held a series of collaborative meetings to address matters concerning their shared land boundary. In January 2024, the two commissions conducted joint community sensitisation exercises at Likpe Mate, located in the Oti Region of Ghana, and in Yikpa, Togo. These initiatives, supported by the German government through the implementing agency GIZ, were designed to educate the border communities about the joint Ghana/Togo land boundary reaffirmation efforts and to highlight the significance of international boundaries. The sensitisation events aimed at enhancing awareness among residents regarding current and emerging trends along the Ghana/

Figure 5.8: Participants in a Group Picture following the Joint Ghana/Togo Land Boundary Technical Meeting in Lome, Togo.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 10 October 2024.

Togo boundary while fostering collaboration between the Ghana Boundary Commission and various stakeholders.

Additionally, negotiations were held between Ghana and Togo to address the outstanding maritime dispute between the two countries, further emphasising the commitment of both parties to peaceful outcomes. The collaborative effort between the two countries not only sought to reaffirm existing boundaries but also aimed to strengthen relationships between communities on both sides of the international boundary, ensuring that mutual respect and cooperation remain at the forefront of Ghana/Togo relations.

b. Collaboration with Cote d'Ivoire

The Ghana Boundary Commission and the National Boundary Commission of Cote d'Ivoire facilitated a two-day bilateral security meeting

in Accra between the Savannah Region of Ghana and the Bounkani Region of Cote d'Ivoire in November 2024. The objective of the meeting was to provide a common platform where stakeholders across both divides of the international boundary could formally coordinate their efforts in tackling security challenges and collaborate on cross-border issues. The meeting is a significant initiative towards strengthening the cooperation of local actors between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, as well as safeguarding the wellbeing of the people living within and across the Savannah and Bounkani Regions. The meeting was attended by representatives from GIZ, the Heads of Boundary Commissions of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, personnel from the security enforcement agencies, regional stakeholders, and local actors. At the end of the meeting, it was recommended that both parties maintain collaboration with stakeholders at all

Figure 5.9: Pictures from the Joint Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire Boundary Commissions Technical Meeting in Accra, Ghana.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 5 November 2024.

levels to implement the adopted action plans and to ensure their effective monitoring and evaluation.

The Integrated Border Stability Mechanism (IBSM), in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Hub for Combating Transnational Organised Crime and the National Boundary Commission of Côte d'Ivoire (CNFCI), organised a regional workshop in November, 2024 in Assinie, Côte d'Ivoire, to promote cross-border cooperation in West Africa. Officially inaugurated in September 2023 in Abidjan, the IBSM in West Africa serves as an inclusive partnership platform, bringing together West African countries, development partners, and implementing agencies. The mechanism was jointly developed by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), and INTERPOL, with support from Germany and other donor countries. The objectives of the high-level technical workshop were to create a platform for dialogue between central and local authorities, as well as security agencies from the countries covered by the IBSM (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Togo), to discuss the challenges of cross-border cooperation in complex security environment. During the meeting, participants identified operational gaps and defined joint action plans to secure borders and combat transnational threats. Two staff members of the Commission were present at the workshop. Other participants included the Executive Secretary of the National Boundary Commission of Cote d'Ivoire (CNFCI), Permanent Secretary of the National Boundary Commission of Burkina Faso, National Director of Borders (DNF) of Mali, Coordinator/ Law Enforcement and CT Officer, UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa, and delegations from Togo, Benin and Ghana.

The second edition of the Abidjan Border Forum (ABF), held from 23 to 25 October in Côte d'Ivoire, focused on the theme "Green Borders:

Between Shared Natural Resources and Security Challenges." The forum was co-organised by the African Union (AU) and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire under the leadership of Mr. Diakalidia Konaté, Executive Director of CNFCI. The forum assembled representatives from Boundary Commissions across the Africa continent, AU member states, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), international institutions, civil society organisations, and the private sector to address critical issues such as border governance, environmental cooperation, and regional security. Participants explored innovative strategies to transform borders into hubs of peace and development. Discussions centred on environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and the Integrated Border Stability Mechanism (IBSM) operationalisation. Delegates reviewed the 2027 deadline for African border delimitation and demarcation and examined the role of borders in advancing regional economic integration and curbing cross-border challenges like insecurity and crime. The forum was a platform for exchanging ideas and showcasing solutions for addressing shared border-related issues. The Ghana Boundary Commission (GhBC) was represented by three staff members, who gained valuable insights into sustainable border management, built networks with peers across Africa, and fostered partnerships crucial for future initiatives. GhBC leveraged the opportunity to advocate for practical strategies on delimitation and demarcation, positioning Ghana as a leader in boundary governance. The participation of GhBC reinforced collaborations with ECOWAS and other African countries, aligning Ghana's border agenda with continental goals. The forum underscored the importance of effective border governance for peace, security, and socio-economic development. The active involvement of the Commission reflected its commitment to enhancing border stability and sustainable development in Ghana and across the region. The networks established and knowledge acquired are expected to contribute significantly to Ghana's efforts to align its borders with national and regional integration priorities.

c. Collaboration with Burkina Faso

In May 2024, the Ghana and Burkina Faso Boundary Commissions held a five-day joint meeting at Bolgatanga, Upper East Region, to review a Cross-Border Framework Agreement and a draft Memorandum of Understanding on Boundary Reaffirmation. Both documents were examined and adopted by the two parties. Following the adoption, the two countries signed a communique, reaffirming their commitment to the provisions of the framework and decisions reached during the meeting. The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of Ghana to Burkina Faso, the Upper East Regional Minister, the Permanent Secretary of the National Boundary Commission of Burkina Faso, the representatives of GIZ/AUBP, the representative of the German Ambassador to Ghana, and Prefets from provinces in Burkina Faso.

The two Commissions also conducted a community sensitisation exercise for the chiefs and people of Paga (Ghana), Dakola (Burkina

Faso), and Namoo in the Upper East Region in April and May 2024. The exercise aimed to raise awareness on the buffer zones along the Ghana-Burkina Faso border. Additionally, the two Commissions conducted an inspection of Boundary Pillars 551, 552, and 553, at the Namoo Border Post in the Bongo District, of the Upper East Region of Ghana which revealed encroachments by residents on the international boundary line.

The Ghana Boundary Commission, with the support of the German Government through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), successfully conducted a two-day validation workshop focused on the Ghana/Burkina Faso Framework Agreement on Cross-Border Cooperation. This significant event took place from 12 to 14 September in Wa, Ghana. The primary aim of the workshop was to validate key documents that shall enhance cross-border relations and governance between Ghana and Burkina Faso. The Framework

Figure 5.10: Pictures from the Joint Ghana/Burkina Faso Boundary Commissions Plenary Meeting in Bolgatanga.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 13 & 16 May 2024.

Agreement is designed to promote cooperation in various sectors, including security, trade, and community support, while reaffirming the international boundaries established during colonial times. The workshop brought together local stakeholders from both nations, including the Upper West and Savannah Regional Ministers of Ghana alongside their counterparts from the four border provinces of Burkina Faso. This high-level engagement underscored the commitment of both countries to strengthen governance and improve management of their shared borders. Mr. Valentin Schuetz, Head of the GIZ Support to the African Union Border Programme, praised the dedication of both governments towards enhancing cross-border relations. He emphasised that effective governance plays a critical role in this collaborative effort. This initiative represents a crucial step toward fostering peace, security, and sustainable development in the region. By transforming international borders from perceived barriers into bridges for cooperation, the agreement aims to enhance economic development and

improve livelihoods for communities on both sides of the border. The validated documents are to be signed by the Foreign Affairs Ministries of the two countries. Overall, the collaborative effort between Ghana and Burkina Faso marks a significant advancement in regional stability and cooperation, reinforcing international commitments towards sustainable development across borders.

d. Collaboration with Nigeria

The Ghana Boundary Commission and the National Boundary Commission of Nigeria convened their second joint Technical Committee meeting on 26 November 2024 in Accra. This meeting was primarily focused on addressing technical matters related to the common maritime boundary shared by the two nations. During the proceedings, the Commissioner General of the Ghana Boundary Commission emphasised the critical nature of robust cross-border cooperation frameworks, advocating for adherence to principles outlined in the African Union Convention. He highlighted

Figure 5.11: Pictures from the Second Joint Ghana/Nigeria Boundary Commissions Meeting in Accra, Ghana.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 26 November 2024.

the necessity of aligning maritime delimitation efforts with human intervention strategies, ensuring that marginalized communities within maritime zones can reap benefits from such initiatives. The Director General of the National Boundary Commission of Nigeria called upon participants to embody a spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect that characterises the relationship between Ghana and Nigeria. In a keynote address, the Chief of Naval Staff of the Ghana Navy, who served as the Guest of Honour, stressed the urgency for enhanced collaboration on maritime security and related challenges. The meeting also saw participation from notable figures, including the Acting High Commissioner of Nigeria to Ghana, further underscoring the significance of this bilateral dialogue in fostering regional stability and cooperation.

5.8 Inaugural Meeting of Heads of National Boundary Commissions in West Africa

The Ghana Boundary Commission in collaboration with ECOWAS and the Federal Republic of Germany through its implementing agency GIZ hosted an inaugural meeting of the Heads of National Boundary Commissions in

West Africa from July 2024 in Accra. The main objective of the three-day meeting, the first of its kind, was to agree on the establishment of a coordination mechanism between national and regional actors for a better articulation of the implementation of border governance strategies across the West Africa region. National Boundary Commissions represented at the meeting were Benin, Burkina Faso, Cotê d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. The event was officially opened by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana who emphasised the need for harmonising efforts across West Africa for effective boundary management. The Commissioner General of the Ghana Boundary Commission highlighted the importance of collaboration among boundary commissions to develop unified strategies. The three-day meeting provided a unique platform for engagement in meaningful discussions on efforts towards cross-border management, as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by Member States. It also enabled the heads of the boundary commissions and critical partners to collectively explore ways to create synergies that would facilitate the establishment of

Figure 5.12: The Minister for Foreign Affairs with the Heads of Boundary Commissions in West Africa and other Guests.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 9 July 2024.

effectively managed boundaries and borders, which are crucial for trade, cultural exchange, and cooperation.

Key recommendations from the meeting aimed at improving border management and foster stronger collaboration throughout the West African region include:

- Institutionalising annual meetings of the Heads of National Boundary Commissions to exchange and harmonise border governance policies;
- Strengthening the involvement of national border management structures in cross-border cooperation programmes;
- Reviewing the ECOWAS Cross-Border Cooperation Support Programme to incorporate National Boundary Commissions;

- Developing institutional frameworks for boundary policies and securing long-term financing;
- Documenting and sharing best practices in border governance;
- Enhancing coordination between cross-border cooperation frameworks and improving information exchange platforms.

As part of the meeting, the Heads of the Boundary Commissions also paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Republic of Ghana at the Presidency. The President urged the national and regional boundary commission officials to fully utilise their mandates to ensure effective boundary management, fostering peaceful and developed border areas alongside regional stability. He encouraged the

Figure 5.13: Courtesy Calls on the President of the Republic of Ghana and the Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana by the Heads of Boundary Commissions in West Africa.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 11 & 12 July 2024.

commissions to prioritise collaborative efforts that would solidify decisions regarding territorial boundaries, emphasising that effective border management is essential for preventing conflicts over natural resources. A delegation of Heads of National Boundary Commissions of West Africa paid a courtesy visit to the Speaker of Parliament as part of the inaugural meeting of the Heads of National Boundary Commissions held in Accra. The meeting focus on enhancing border governance strategies within the ECOWAS region. During the visit, the Speaker acknowledged the region's linguistic diversity as a cultural asset while noting the challenges it poses for communication and collaboration among member states. He also addressed the issue of Africa's misrepresentation on global maps, pointing out that many African countries are significantly larger than their European counterparts. He stressed that correcting these inaccuracies would positively impact Africa's global image. The Speaker highlighted the importance of the meeting in addressing such issues and assured the delegation of Parliament's support, particularly in legislative matters, to strengthen border governance across West Africa.

5.9 Engagement with the African Union Commission

The Ghana Boundary Commission actively engaged with the African Union Commission (AUC) in 2024, focusing on enhancing boundary governance and promoting regional integration. This engagement was highlighted by two significant events: a visit by the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, and a benchmarking exchange visit on national boundary structures. These engagements demonstrate the Commission's commitment to effective border governance while contributing to broader efforts aimed at enhancing peace, security, and integration across Africa.

a. Visit by the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security

The Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security (CPAPS) of the African Union, His Excellency Bankole Adeoye, led a three-member delegation on a working visit to the Ghana Boundary Commission on 22 July, 2024. The visit coincided with the 45th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council, held in Accra. Following a comprehensive presentation

Figure 5.14: Working Visit to the Ghana Boundary Commission by the Commissioner of Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 22 July 2024.

by the Commission, H.E. Adeoye commended the Commission for the efforts the GhBC had made in ensuring well-coordinated joint boundary reaffirmation activities and cross-border initiatives with neighbouring states. He also acknowledged the work of the Commission in implementing social intervention programmes for underprivileged border communities. H.E. Adeoye emphasised the importance of experience-sharing among Boundary Commissions across Africa highlighting their critical role in promoting peace and stability on the continent. Commending the Commission for its role in facilitating the ratification of the African Union Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation (Niamey Convention) last year, he urged all AU Member States to ratify Niamey Convention to advance socio-economic integration across Africa. The Commissioner General of the GhBC expressed his gratitude to H.E. Adeoye and his delegation for their visit and acknowledged the African Union Commission's continued support in promoting effective border governance across the continent. He further encouraged the AU Commission to sustain its support for the activities of Boundary Commissions in Africa, emphasising their role in safeguarding peace and unity.

b. Benchmarking and Exchange Visit on National Boundary Structures

The benchmarking and exchange visit, held in Nairobi, Kenya, focused on sharing best practices and enhancing the establishment, functioning, and operationalization of national boundary structures within the East African Community (EAC) region. Organised by the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the AUC, the visit brought together delegates from multiple countries to discuss effective border governance for peace, security, and regional integration. A representative of the GhBC participated in the event and delivered a presentation on the Commission's structure and experiences during its three years of operation. The presentation highlighted the strategic organisation of GhBC, comprising five operational departments, and key achievements,

including the reaffirmation of major land and maritime boundaries, the use of advanced technology such as drones and GIS tools, and the promotion of international collaboration. The insights provided underscored GhBC's commitment to securing Ghana's territorial integrity and strengthening cross-border governance. Participants explored common challenges, including resource limitations, outdated equipment, and issues accessing colonial documents. The workshop emphasised the importance of capacity building, the use of modern technologies, and collaboration among Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to address these issues. The contribution of Ghana and the GhBC specifically served as a valuable example of innovative strategies and impactful results in boundary management. The workshop concluded with recommendations for member states to expedite the ratification of the Niamey Convention, establish dedicated boundary governance institutions, and prioritise resource mobilisation and community sensitisation. These measures strengthen boundary governance structures and enhance regional cooperation and integration.

5.10 Engagement with Civil Society Organisations and International Organisations

In 2024, the Ghana Boundary Commission deepened collaboration with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) to enhance boundary management, cross-border cooperation and community engagement. These partnerships underscored the importance of multi-stakeholder cooperation in addressing boundary-related challenges and promoting regional security and development. This section outlines key engagements with CSOs and NGOs such as the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Conciliation Resources, and the International Centre for Migration and Policy Development (ICMPD). Through these initiatives, the Commission conducted national and regional stakeholders' dialogue workshops,

advocated for effective policies, and promoted cross-border cooperation. By leveraging diverse expertise and resources, these efforts aimed at creating impact on boundary governance, cross-border cooperation and collective security.

a. West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

In 2024, the Commission engaged with the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) to explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration. The primary objective of these meetings was to identify and develop potential joint initiatives. Discussions centred on the following critical areas for collaboration:

- Joint Research and Data Collection: Identifying boundaries.
- Joint Training Programmes: Developing training initiatives for stakeholders to enhance border conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms.

- Border Community Engagement: Implementing targeted programmes and sensitisation exercises specifically for border communities.
- Early Warning Systems: Establishing indicators to monitor tensions along Ghana's international boundaries.
- Publications and Policy Advocacy: Collaborating on joint publications and engaging in policy advocacy efforts.

These meetings successfully pinpointed various collaborative pathways, leading to a recommendation for the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise and enhance the partnership between the Commission and WANEP, thereby amplifying a collective impact on peacebuilding initiatives in the region.

Figure 5.15: GhBC and WANEP Team at the Ghana Boundary Commission Office for a Meeting.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 26 February 2024.

b. Conciliation Resources and Robert Bosch Stiftung

The Ghana Boundary Commission collaborated with Conciliation Resources and Robert Bosch Stiftung of Germany to organise two Stakeholders Dialogue Workshops in Accra on the theme: "Emerging Security Threats and Initiatives towards Effective Boundary Management and Security". The dialogue sessions, held in February 2024, were designed to enhance boundary management by providing a collaborative platform for national and regional stakeholders to share insights on current and emerging security trends along Ghana's international boundaries. These sessions facilitated dynamic discussions, allowing participants to exchange experiences and strategies

Figure 5.16: Picture from the Regional Stakeholders' Dialogue organised in collaboration with Conciliation Resources.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 29 February 2024.

related to boundary management. The meetings not only strengthened collaboration between GhBC and various stakeholders but also highlighted the critical importance of multi-stakeholder engagement in addressing boundary-related challenges and promoting peace and security in border areas. The national dialogue attracted a diverse group of participants, including representatives from the Ghana Immigration Service; the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR); the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC); the International Centre Migration Policy Development (ICMPD); Accra Initiative; WANEP; National Peace Council; NorthCode; GTV; Customs division of the Ghana Revenue Authority; Daily Graphic; STAR Ghana Foundation; International Organisation for Migration-Ghana (IOM); and MFARI among

others. Participants from Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire joined participants from Ghana for the regional stakeholders' dialogue, highlighting the tri-border nature of the discussions. The collaborative effort between GhBC, Conciliation Resources, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and other stakeholders from the national and regional levels underscored the significance of engaging multiple stakeholders in addressing boundary-related challenges and enhancing security in Ghana and neighbouring countries. The insights gathered during these workshops are expected to inform future initiatives aimed at promoting stability and cross-border cooperation.

c. International Centre for Migration and Policy Development

Throughout 2024, the GhBC collaborated with the International Centre for Migration and Policy

Development (ICMPD) on several initiatives. The ICMPD, sponsor of the Strengthening Border Security in Ghana (SBS) project for the Ghana Immigration Service through the EU, invited the Commission to participate in several engagements in 2024. These included contributing to the development of the GIS Strategic Plan under the SBS project and serving as a panellist to discuss “Enhancing Cross-Border Cooperation for Regional Security: Strategies and Lessons Learned.” The SBS Ghana project, funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, aimed to strengthen Ghana’s border security by building capacity and improving regional cooperation to reduce irregular migration and cross-border crimes. Implemented by ICMPD in collaboration with GIS, the project aligned with Ghana’s broader

national security and migration management strategies. The regional workshop, which marked the conclusion of the SBS Ghana project, also served as a platform for stakeholders to discuss and plan future border security initiatives. Participants shared experiences, learned from one another, and developed practical solutions to common challenges. Key stakeholders in border management, including representatives from immigration services, police, customs, and gendarmerie from Ghana, Togo, Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Benin attended the event. Representatives from regional organizations such as ECOWAS, along with other international partners and border security experts, also participated, fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment.

Figure 5.17: Participation of GhBC Staff at the GIS/ICMPD Regional Workshop under the Strengthening Border Security Project.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 18 November 2024.

5.11 ESCO Black Volta Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting

The Ghana Boundary Commission facilitated a two-day Extraordinary General Meeting of the Espace Communautaire Volta Noire (ESCO Black Volta) in Accra in October 2024. The ESCO Black Volta Cross-Border Cooperation is an initiative aimed at fostering collaboration between Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso along their shared Black Volta Boundary. The cooperation is focused on improving shared resource management, regional security and socio-economic development. The meeting, attended by participants from Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, with a representative of the German Ambassador and the President of ESCO Black Volta, aimed to update the statutes and internal regulations of the ESCO Black Volta. The meeting also validated and integrated the

membership of Savannah Region of Ghana into the ESCO Black Volta Community.

As a follow-up to the Accra meeting and in the spirit of strengthening cross-border cooperation in the ESCO Volta Noire region, a Joint Review and Planning Meeting was held in Bouna, Côte d'Ivoire, on 11 November, 2024. This three-day workshop aimed to evaluate the progress made in strengthening institutional dynamic and advancing cross-border cooperation. A key object of the meeting was the official launch of the preparation for the Integrated Cross-Border Development Plan, which seeks to promote more cohesive management of the region. The establishment of this cross-border cooperation area is crucial for regional cohesion, sustainable development and the overall advancement of the ESCO Volta Noire area. Additionally, the workshop aimed to outline a three-year plan (2024–2026) for cross-border cooperation

Figure 5.18: Participants at the ESCO Black Volta Extraordinary General Meeting in Accra.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 30 October 2024.

activities within the region. The GhBC played a pivotal role in these efforts, collaborating actively with their counterparts from Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire, as well as local and administrative authorities from the three countries and various technical and financial partners.

Some key decisions taken at the meeting included the following:

- **Institutional Participation:** Leadership must ensure the involvement of traditional authorities in planning and implementing local cross-border cooperation initiatives, particularly in socio-cultural activities, conflict prevention and management, and the promotion of social cohesion.
- **Budgetary Support:** The State should allocate budgetary resources to finance the umbrella organisation responsible for the cross-border component of the National Border Policies of Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, as well as their respective National Development Plans (NDPs).
- **Cross-Border Dialogue:** Stakeholders should promote the institutionalisation of frameworks for cross-border dialogue, communication and consultation among all parties involved in preventing a deterioration of the security situation. This includes local authorities, administrative authorities, traditional authorities, defence and security forces, civil society organisations, and non-governmental organisations.

5.12 Engagements with Development Partners

In 2024, the Ghana Boundary Commission prioritised building and strengthening relationships with development partners to enhance boundary management and regional security. These engagements provided a platform to explore strategic areas of collaboration, present operations, and secure commitments for initiatives aimed at improving border management and supporting border communities. This section highlights key interactions with diplomatic missions and international agencies, including the Embassies

of Japan, France, and China, as well as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Embassy of Ghana in France and the Austria Centre for Peace. These meetings facilitated the identification of technical support opportunities, knowledge exchange, and collaborative projects, reinforcing partnerships that contribute to sustainable development and effective boundary governance.

a. Support from the German Government

The Ghana Boundary Commission continued to benefit from the committed partnership of the Federal Foreign Ministry of Germany, via the latter's implementing agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The partnership significantly influenced the activities of the Commission within the period under review and is evident in a range of initiatives, including several bilateral plenary and technical meetings with boundary commissions of neighbouring countries, community sensitisation programmes, joint land boundary reaffirmation efforts, and the construction of international boundary pillars. These initiatives underscore the commitment of both parties to enhancing regional cooperation and stability, reflecting a proactive approach to peace, security and effective boundary management. The support from Germany was pivotal in facilitating crucial dialogues and actions aimed at fostering peaceful coexistence and collaboration among border communities and neighbouring countries. During the review year, the German government through GIZ, provided substantial financial and technical support amounting to approximately 2.5 million Ghana Cedis. This funding was allocated across the following three GIZ support programmes:

- African Union Border Programme (AUBP);
- Peaceful and Resilient Cross-Border Regions in the Sahelo-Coastal Countries of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Mali – Cross-Border Cooperation (SKBoWa) Project; and
- Mitigating the Destabilising Effects of Transnational Organised Crime (MTOC) Project

Table 5.1: Summary of GhBC Activities Funded by the German Government (GIZ Programmes).

Serial	Description of Support Provided	Location	GIZ Support Programme
1	Conduct of Phase 4 of the Ghana/Togo land Boundary Reaffirmation exercise	Likpe and environs	GIZ/AUBP
2	Conduct of Joint Ghana/Togo Community Sensitisation Exercises	in Likpe (GH) and Yikpa (TG)	GIZ/AUBP
3	Conduct of Joint Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire Technical Committee Workshop	Abidjan	GIZ/AUBP
4	Conduct of joint Ghana/Burkina Faso Technical committee workshop	Bolgatanga	GIZ/AUBP
5	Ghana/Burkina Faso Plenary Meeting on the Validation of a Cross-Border Cooperation Framework between the two countries	Bolgatanga and Wa	GIZ/AUBP & GIZ/SKBoWa
6	Conduct of the ESCO Black Volta Extraordinary General Assembly meeting	Accra, Ghana	GIZ/AUBP & GIZ/MTOC
7	Conduct of a tripartite meeting among Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso on the establishment of a Cross-Border Security Cooperation Framework.	Accra, Ghana	GIZ/AUBP & GIZ/MTOC
8	Conduct of biannual joint Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire Boundary Commission Planning meeting.	Accra, Ghana	GIZ/AUBP & GIZ/MTOC
9	Research on building community resilience against transnational organised crime	Saru, Dollar Power and Dorimon	GIZ/MTOC
10	Community Sensitisation Exercises on building community resilience against transnational organised crime	Saru, Dollar Power and Dorimon	GIZ/MTOC

Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 December 2024.

i. GIZ/AUBP

The GIZ/African Union Border Programme (AUBP) significantly contributed to the efforts of the Commission in three key areas:

- Delimitation and Demarcation:** GIZ/AUBP played a pivotal role in facilitating the conduct of several bilateral technical meetings between the Ghana Boundary Commission and its counterparts in Togo, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire. These meetings focused on the joint reaffirmation of common boundaries, reinforcing regional cooperation and clearly demarcated boundaries. Additionally, GIZ/AUBP provided essential funding for the construction of new international boundary pillars along the Ghana/Togo international land boundary. This initiative which aligns with the overarching goals of the AUBP is vital for enhancing effective boundary management and contributing also to peace
- Cross-Border Cooperation:** The GIZ/AUBP facilitated several successful bilateral meetings and workshops between GhBC and the Boundary Commissions of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire aimed at reviewing and validating cross-border cooperation framework agreements between the respective countries. These gatherings brought together essential stakeholders in boundary management, creating a platform for in-depth discussions on various issues related to cross-border cooperation initiatives and collaborative engagements within border communities. By fostering dialogue and cooperation, these cross-border meetings contributed to promoting

peaceful interactions. The outcomes of these meetings not only reflect a commitment to effective border governance but also underscore the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing shared challenges faced by the neighbouring countries.

- **Capacity Building:** The Commission received support from GIZ AUBP to enhance the skills of GhBC key staff by providing relevant boundary management workshops and courses aimed at promoting capacity building.

ii. GIZ/MTOC

In August, the GIZ Support to the Mitigation of Destabilising Effects of Transnational Organised Crime (GIZ/MTOC) partnered with the Commission to undertake comprehensive, evidence-based research in three border communities: Saru and Dollar Power in the

Savannah Region, and Dorimon in the Upper West Region of Ghana. This field research, fully funded by the GIZ/MTOC project, aimed to systematically identify and categorise prevalent illicit economic activities within these areas while also exploring potential alternative livelihood support programmes. Leveraging on the insights gained from this research, the Commission between September and November carried out a series of sensitisation initiatives across the same communities – Saru, Dollar Power, and Dorimon. These initiatives, entirely funded by GIZ/MTOC, were designed to educate local populations about the implications of illicit economic activities prevalent in the identified border communities. The overarching goal was to enhance community resilience through local ownership and to underscore the significance of international boundaries alongside the vital role played by border residents. This collaborative

Figure 5.19: GhBC -GIZ/MTOC Research and Sensitisation Exercises in Selected Border Communities.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 28 August 2024.

effort not only aimed at raising awareness but also sought to empower community members, fostering a sense of responsibility and engagement in addressing issues related to transnational organised crime. By prioritising local involvement and education, these initiatives represent a crucial step towards building sustainable, resilient communities capable of resisting the destabilising effects of organised crime.

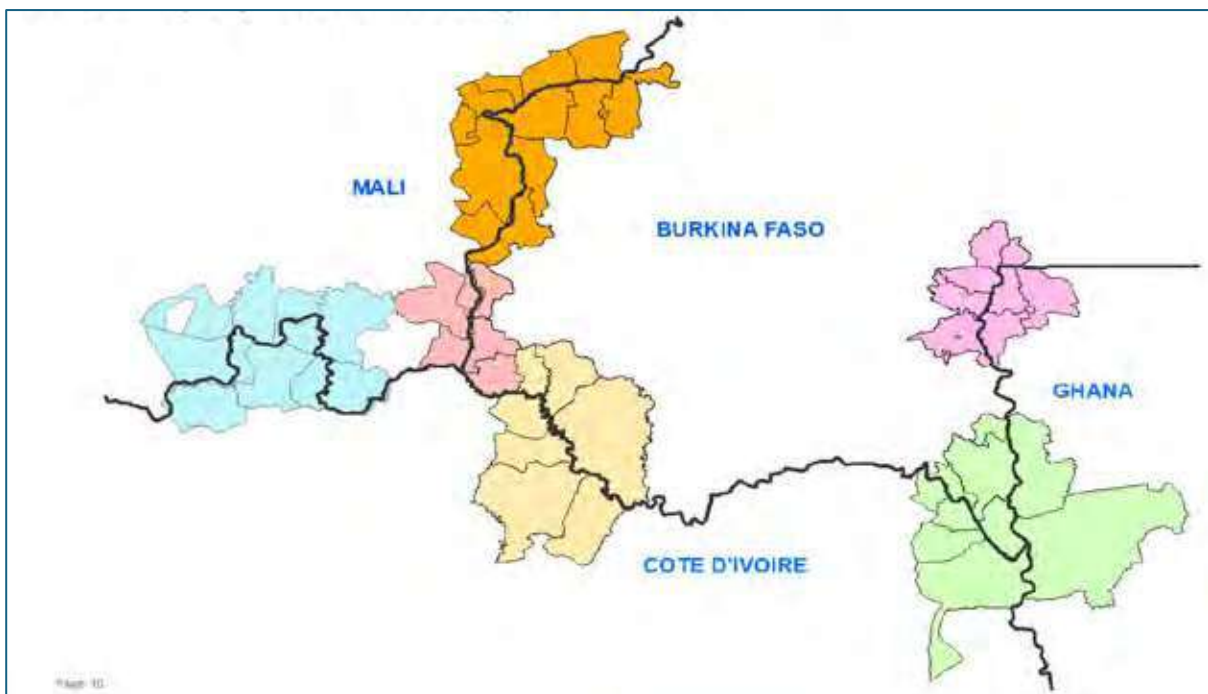
iii. GIZ/SKBoWa

The Ghana Boundary Commission between July and September 2024 engaged in a series of significant regional and national stakeholder meetings organised by GIZ as part of a multi-donor initiative titled “Peaceful and Resilient Cross-Border Regions in the Sahelo-Coastal Countries of Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, and Mali – Cross-Border Cooperation SKBoWa (Sikasso-Korhogo-Bobo Dioulasso- Wa).” The SKBoWa initiative, co-financed by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and implemented through GIZ, aims to enhance cross-border cooperation and resilience across

the region. In Ghana, this project focuses on border communities in the Upper West and Savannah Regions, with the aim of promoting sustainable development and building resilience among these populations. The Commission actively participated in the regional inception meeting held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 10 - 13 July, alongside key stakeholders from Mali, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, and Ghana. Following this meeting, the Commission took part in the National Operational Planning Workshop in Accra in August 2024 and the Sub-National Operational Planning Workshop in Wa in September 2024. These discussions identified opportunities to improve cross-border coordination and harmonisation, culminating in the drafting of an operational plan centred on three main output areas:

- **Strengthening Institutional Capacities:** Enhancing the institutional and technical capacities of regional and local authorities to improve cross-border governance.
- **Fostering Security and Cohesion:** Building the institutional and technical capacities of local actors to promote better security and social cohesion within border communities.

Map 5.1: Proposed SKBoWa Cross-Border Cooperation Intervention Zones/Space.



Source: GIZ/SKBoWa, 10 July 2024.

- Economic Development Opportunities: Expanding access to economic development opportunities for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups.

b. Embassy of Japan in Ghana and the Japan International Cooperation Agency in Ghana

At the invitation of the Japanese Ambassador to Ghana, H.E. Mochizuki Hisanobu, a delegation from the Ghana Boundary Commission, led by the Commissioner General, visited the Embassy of Japan in February 2024, following an initial visit in late 2023. The purpose of the visit was to further explore potential areas of cooperation and showcase key activities undertaken by the Commission. The meeting, chaired by the Ambassador, also included the participation of Ms. Momoko Suzuki, Head of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Ghana. Building on these discussions, a five-member team from JICA and Yachiyo Engineering in Japan conducted a follow-up visit to the Commission in August 2024. This visit formed part of a comprehensive survey aimed at gathering data on border control management and customs clearance processes in Ghana. Key discussions focused on operations at major entry points, challenges faced by vulnerable border

communities, risk management strategies, and border surveillance enforcement. In November 2024, the JICA and Yachiyo Engineering team returned to the Commission to validate data previously collected and requested for additional information on potential areas of collaboration. These ongoing engagements have laid the groundwork for prospective support in social intervention initiatives and other related projects along the international boundaries of Ghana by the Japanese Government from 2025.

c. Embassy of France in Ghana

In October 2024, the GhBC, led by the Commissioner General, paid a working visit to the Embassy of France. The purpose of the visit was to brief the French Ambassador to Ghana, His Excellency, Jules-Armand Aniambossou, on the operations and activities of the Commission, and to explore potential partnerships in strategic areas of mutual interest. Subsequently, in November 2024, the Commissioner General visited Mrs. Anna Bossman, Ambassador of Ghana to France, in Paris. The meetings aimed to introduce the Ghana Boundary Commission, provide an overview of its operations, and discuss potential areas of support to further its mandate.

Figure 5.20: Engagements with the Japanese Ambassador to Ghana and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 28 February & 21 November 2024.

Figure 5.21: Courtesy Call by the Ghana Boundary Commission on the French Ambassador to Ghana.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 10 October 2024.

d. Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ghana

In October 2024, the Commissioner General and selected staff of the GhBC visited to the Embassy of China. The purpose of the visit was to discuss potential strategic areas of support and partnership with the Chinese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ghana, H. E. Tong Defa, and to brief the Embassy on the activities of the Commission. Following the initial engagement, a four-member delegation from the Commission, led by the Chief of Staff, paid a follow-up visit in November 2024. The delegation engaged in productive discussions with the Defence Attaché of the Embassy, focusing on potential areas of support to enhance boundary management and foster border community development. Both parties concluded the discussions with a shared commitment to deepen cooperation and achieve mutual goals. These engagements reflect the growing partnership between the Republic of Ghana and the People's Republic of China.

Figure 5.22: Courtesy Call on the Ambassador of China to Ghana and Follow Up Engagements with the Chinese Embassy.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 11 October & 21 November 2024.

e. Austria Centre for Peace

On 9 December 2024, a delegation from the Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP) met with the Commission to discuss the next phase of the Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa (HAWA) capacity building project. The project aims to enhance capacities for effective humanitarian crises response in West Africa. Implemented in Ghana in partnership with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC), the project also operates in Burkina Faso, Senegal, Nigeria, Mali and Niger, collaborating with HAWA course graduates and local partner organisations. It is funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation and supported by the Austrian Ministry of Defence. During the meeting, potential collaboration opportunities were explored, including the organisation of disaster relief workshops in the border regions of Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Togo. The ACP, established in 1982, is dedicated to promoting peace through dialogue and mediation, with expertise in capacity development and conflict resolution, particularly in crisis-prone regions like West Africa. The meeting represents an important step towards strengthening joint efforts to address humanitarian needs and improve disaster preparedness in vulnerable border communities.

5.13 Commemoration of the 2024 African Border Day

The African Border Day (ABD), established by the African Union (AU) in 2010, is commemorated annually by Member States on 7 June. This observance seeks to raise awareness among Member States, border communities, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), civil society organisations, scholars, and other stakeholders about the importance of resolving conflicts along international borders. Its goal is to foster



Figure 5.23: Working Visit to GhBC by a Team from the Austria Centre for Peace.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 9 December 2024.

Figure 5.24: GhBC Engagements/Interviews at various Media Houses in Commemoration of the African Border Day.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 4 - 11 June 2024.

peaceful, secure, and harmonious border communities that support socio-economic integration and cultural development. ABD underscores the need to view borders not just as geographical divisions but as vital components of national and regional security, stability, and growth. It promotes the African Union Border Programme (AUBP), while highlighting the importance of peace, security, and cultural tolerance for the socio-economic advancement of border communities. The theme for the 14th edition of ABD was “Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa.” To commemorate the 2024 ABD and enhance public understanding of key boundary issues, the Commission launched a week-long media campaign from 4 – 11 June, 2024. This initiative featured discussions on the significance of ABD, as well as the Commission’s mandate, activities and achievements. The Commission participated in nine live media appearances and interviews across various platforms including: Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (Uniiq FM,

GTV Breakfast Show, Adult Education in Ewe, Obonu TV, and Talking Point); Multimedia Group (Joy News/The AMShow and Joy FM Breakfast Show); Asaase Radio (Breakfast Show); and Media General (3FM). To reach a diverse audience, interviews were conducted in multiple languages including English, Twi, Ga, and Ewe. The extensive reach of these programmes significantly increased public awareness of ABD and the Commission’s work. On 12 June 2024, the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources and Chair of the GhBC Governing Body, Mr. Samuel Abu Jinapor, delivered a statement on the floor of Parliament to commemorate ABD. In his address, he emphasised the importance of engaging and empowering border communities - including Traditional Authorities, Border Security Committees, Municipal/District Assemblies - alongside other stakeholders, to highlight the significance of international boundaries and their role in effective border governance. Mr. Jinapor underscored the crucial role that border communities play in maintaining peaceful relations between Ghana and its neighbours. He also commended the Commission’s dedication

Figure 5.25: Delivery of Statement in Commemoration of African Border Day by the Sector Minister at Parliament.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 12 June 2024.

to upholding international law and its efforts to peacefully resolving boundary disputes. Following the statement by the Minister, Members of Parliament commended the Commission's diligent work in safeguarding the territorial sovereignty of Ghana. This prompted the Speaker of Parliament to request a comprehensive briefing from the GhBC on its operations to explore ways the Government of Ghana could better support its

initiatives. On 26 June 2024, the Commissioner General of the GhBC delivered the requested briefing to the Whole of Parliament. During this session he reiterated the importance of the Commission's work in securing the international land and maritime boundaries of Ghana. He also highlighted the need for legislative backing and increased funding to enhance the effectiveness of the Commission.

Figure 5.26: The Commissioner General making a Presentation on the Floor of Parliament on the Ghana Boundary Commission.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 26 June 2024.

5.14 Conclusion

In 2024, stakeholder engagement and partnerships played an essential role in advancing the mission of the Ghana Boundary Commission. Through active collaboration with national entities such as the Ghana Armed Forces, Ghana Immigration Service, and the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority, the Commission received critical support that strengthened field operations and border management. On a regional level, the Commission prioritised cooperative efforts with neighbouring boundary commissions, which led to impactful joint initiatives. These efforts reflected the commitment of the Commission in fostering regional stability and security. Internationally, the engagement of the GhBC with organisations and Development Partners underscored the dedication to a collaborative approach to border management, ensuring alignment with global standards and benefiting from a wide range of expertise and resources. The emphasis of the Commission on multisectoral collaboration, at the national, regional and international levels both domestically and internationally, highlights a robust and strategic approach to boundary governance, and affirming the importance of partnerships in addressing complex border management challenges.



SECTION SIX

BORDER COMMUNITY SENSITISATION ACTIVITIES

6.1 Introduction

Boundary disputes and security concerns pose significant challenges within border communities, often escalating into conflicts that strain relationships and hinder development efforts. Recognising this, the GhBC prioritised raising awareness and encouraging dialogue on key boundary issues in 2024. These efforts were aimed at promoting peace, security, social cohesion and good neighbourliness among border communities. To achieve these objectives, the Commission undertook a comprehensive series of sensitisation activities across border communities to enhance understanding of boundary-related issues and encourage active community participation in boundary management. These initiatives were instrumental in fostering cooperation and addressing the complexities that arise at international borders. The sensitisation efforts focused on critical topics such as boundary reaffirmation, cross-border cooperation, community resilience, and the prevention of transnational organised crime. Strategic programmes were designed to equip local populations with essential knowledge and practical strategies for navigating boundary challenges. Throughout 2024, sensitisation sessions were conducted in various communities, including Likpe Mate (Oti Region), Paga (Upper East Region), Namoo (Upper East Region), Saru (Savannah Region), Dollar Power (Savannah Region), and Dorimon (Upper West Region). These activities underscored the GhBC's commitment to fostering dialogue, trust, and collaboration among border communities. By facilitating discussions and promoting conflict resolution, the initiatives sought to cultivate a culture of peace, unity, and resilience for both current and future generations. The methodology prioritised targeted engagement with diverse

stakeholders, including traditional authorities, local leaders, women, and youth. This inclusive approach maximised the programmes impact across the communities involved. By educating and involving communities as key stakeholders, the initiatives laid a foundation for sustainable development and strengthened cross-border relations. Notably, several of these sensitisation exercises were conducted in partnership with the boundary commissions of Burkina Faso and Togo and received funding through the GIZ/AUBP and GIZ/MTOC projects. This section provides further details on the sensitisation exercises undertaken by the Commission during the year.

6.2 Joint Ghana/Togo Community Sensitisation at Likpe Mate, Oti Region

As part of activities towards the Joint Land Boundary Reaffirmation Exercise between Ghana and Togo, and in the spirit of cross-border cooperation, the Ghana Boundary Commission and the National Land Boundary Commission of Togo conducted a successful Joint Community Sensitisation at Likpe Mate in Ghana's Guan District (Oti Region) and Yikpa in Togo in January 2024. Funded by the German government and facilitated by GIZ, the initiative aimed to educate border communities on the purpose and progress of the reaffirmation exercise while emphasising the significance of international boundaries. The sensitisation exercise informed stakeholders—including traditional leaders, local government officials, and community members—about the reaffirmation's objectives and progress, fostering a sense of ownership and collaboration in safeguarding boundary markers. The programme also addressed the prevention of activities that could damage these markers

Figure 6.1: Joint Ghana/Togo Sensitisation Exercises in Likpe Mate, Oti Region.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 25 January 2024.

and enhanced security awareness among participants. In Likpe Mate, approximately 534 individuals participated, comprising 324 females and 210 males, reflecting strong community engagement and gender balance. Participants included representatives from both boundary commissions, local authorities, students, youth groups, and media personnel, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing border issues. A similar session was held in Yikpa, Togo, on January 26. Throughout the programme, speakers emphasised the importance of community collaboration to ensure the successful implementation of the reaffirmation exercise. They clarified that the initiative aims to affirm existing boundaries rather than establish new ones. Additionally, the GhBC distributed educational materials to local schools through the district, further supporting community engagement efforts. The Commission also engaged with Traditional Authorities, the Regional Security Council, the

District Assembly, and local opinion leaders in various communities along the boundary. A targeted sensitisation session was conducted for Traditional Authorities and staff of the Guan District Assembly to build support. In addition, prior to the main community sensitisation durbar, the GhBC team used the platform of Sekpele 104.3 FM, a local radio station in Likpe Mate, to inform residents about the Commission's activities and to encourage support for the reaffirmation exercise. This approach ensured broad community outreach and amplified the impact of the sensitisation efforts.

6.3 Joint Community Sensitisation with Burkina Faso

In April 2024, the Boundary Commissions of Ghana and Burkina Faso conducted a joint community sensitisation exercise at the border communities of Paga in Ghana's Kasena-Nankana West District, and Dakola in Burkina

Figure 6.2: Joint Ghana/Burkina Faso Community Sensitisation at Paga, Upper East Region.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 5 April 2024.

Faso. This exercise aimed to raise awareness among residents about encroachments in the buffer zones along the Ghana/Burkina Faso International Boundary Line. It provided a platform for dialogue and education, addressing pressing concerns related to land use and boundary management. Key speakers included the Commissioner General of the Ghana Boundary Commission and the Permanent Secretary of the National Boundary Commission of Burkina Faso, both of whom delivered compelling addresses. They emphasised the importance of respecting established boundaries and mitigating encroachments while highlighted the vital role of local communities in preserving

territorial integrity and fostering peaceful coexistence. The event attracted a diverse audience, including the Upper East Regional Minister, the Ambassador of Ghana to Burkina Faso, the Kasena-Nankana West District Chief Executive, and senior officials from various security agencies. Media representatives were also present, underscoring the importance of transparency and community engagement in this initiative. This sensitisation exercise facilitated a meaningful exchange of ideas and reinforced the commitment of both nations to collaborate on effective border security management. It marked a significant step towards enhancing bilateral cooperation and understanding, focusing

on shared challenges such as security and community development. As part of a broader strategy to foster sustainable relationships between neighbouring countries, the initiative ensured that border communities were informed and actively involved in addressing issues that directly impact their livelihoods and security. The joint sensitisation exercises at Paga and Dakola exemplified a proactive approach to border management, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening ties between Ghana and Burkina Faso. By equipping local communities with knowledge and resources, both nations are taking crucial steps towards ensuring stability, cooperation and development along their shared borders.

6.4 Community Sensitisation Exercise at Namoo, Upper East Region

The Ghana Boundary Commission in May 2024 conducted a community sensitisation exercise at the Namoo Border Post in the Bongo District of the Upper East Region. This initiative was designed to engage traditional leaders, opinion leaders, and various stakeholders on critical issues surrounding boundary encroachment within the buffer zones of the Ghana/Burkina Faso international land boundary. The exercise aimed not only to raise awareness about these encroachment issues but also to foster a spirit of cooperation between the local community and

Figure 6.3: Sensitisation and Boundary Pillar Inspection at the Namoo Border Post, along the Ghana/Burkina Faso Boundary.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 15 May 2024.

border officials, thereby enhancing the effective management of this crucial boundary. The event featured key addresses from notable figures, including Major General Emmanuel Kotia, the Commissioner General of GhBC, and Mrs. Rita Atanga, the Bongo District Chief Executive. Both leaders emphasised the importance of respecting buffer zones and urged attendees to refrain from encroaching upon these areas. They highlighted that adherence to established boundaries is vital for maintaining territorial integrity and national sovereignty. The discussions underscored a shared responsibility of all parties to work together in addressing and resolving boundary encroachment issues. In addition to local leaders, other prominent speakers included representatives from Conciliation Resources, the Director for Policy, Plans and Programmes at GhBC; and military officials, who stressed the necessity of cross-border cooperation for fostering peaceful coexistence and enhancing security. They pointed out that effective intelligence sharing and collaboration are essential for managing potential conflicts that may arise due to boundary disputes. The event was well-attended, featuring the Paramount Chief of the Bongo Traditional Area, Bonaba Salifu Baba Atamale Lem Yaarum, along with his sub-chiefs, border security personnel, military representatives, staff from the Boundary Commission, and a representative from Conciliation Resources. This diverse attendance highlighted the community's commitment to addressing boundary issues collectively.

Overall, this sensitisation exercise marked a pivotal step towards reinforcing community engagement in border management and fostering a collaborative approach to safeguarding Ghana's territorial boundaries. By bringing together various stakeholders, the GhBC aims to create a more informed and cooperative environment that can effectively address challenges related to boundary encroachment and promote sustainable peace along the Ghana/Burkina Faso border.

6.5 Border Community Sensitisation Exercises sponsored by GIZ/MTOC

The Ghana Boundary Commission partnered with GIZ on the "Support to the Mitigation of Destabilising Effects of Transnational Organised Crime (M-TOC)" project. This ECOWAS initiative, commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office and implemented by GIZ in collaboration with the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime (GITOC), integrates traditional security responses with community-driven resilience measures. It is informed by advance research on the intersection of illicit economies and instability within the tri-border area of Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso. As part of this collaboration, the Commission conducted field research in August 2024 to identify and categorise illicit economic activities prevalent in Ghana's border communities. Leveraging the findings, the Commission organised a series of sensitisation exercises in three selected border communities along the international boundaries with Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso: Dollar Power and Saru in the Savannah Region, and Dorimon in the Upper West Region. A total of 3,467 participants were sensitised across these communities, with Saru hosting 898 participants, Dollar Power 729 participants, and Dorimon 1,840 participants. These diverse groups were educated on critical issues related to transnational organised crime and cross-border cooperation, including illegal mining (galamsey), human trafficking, goods smuggling, terrorism, violent extremism, and boundary management.

The sensitisation exercises aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- **Create Awareness:** Increase awareness of illicit economic activities in the specific border communities along the International Boundary.
- **Facilitate Dialogue:** Promote dialogue and cooperation among key stakeholders to curb illicit economic activities and foster sustainable livelihoods.
- **Build Resilience:** Strengthen community resilience by fostering a culture of cooperation, trust, and solidarity.

- **Enhance Understanding:** Improve understanding of boundary-related issues and highlight the role of community members in boundary management and cross-border cooperation.

The sensitisation exercises employed a multifaceted approach that included direct community engagements, stakeholder dialogues, media engagements, and community information sessions. To achieve the set objectives, the following specific approaches were adopted:

- **Targeted Community Sessions.** Conducted focused sensitisation sessions tailored for specific groups within the community such as traditional authorities (chiefs), women, men, and school children. This approach ensured that the messaging was relevant and resonated with each audience.
- **Community Durbars.** Organised gathering involving residents and key stakeholders

including Regional Coordinating Councils, District Assemblies, Ghana Police Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Ghana Armed Forces, Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority, and nearby communities from Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire. These durbars reinforced key messages, enhancing credibility and extending outreach.

- **Open Forums.** Incorporated interactive forums to encourage active participation from community members. These provided a platform for residents to voice their questions, concerns, and ideas while discussing pressing community-specific issues. Responses from state agency representative and traditional leaders fostered collaboration and local ownership.
- **Direct Stakeholder Engagements.** Meetings with key stakeholders, such as regional coordinating councils, traditional leaders, District Assemblies, the Ghana Immigration

Figure 6.4: Media Interviews/Public Awareness Creation by GhBC Team during the GIZ/MTOC Community Sensitisation Exercises in the Savannah and Upper West Regions.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, October 2024.

Service, the Ghana Police Service, and the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), ensured a comprehensive understanding of community needs. These engagements also mobilised support from various actors for the sensitisation activities.

- **Media Outreach.** Local media houses were engaged for interview and airtime to amplify the message to a broader audience. Media presence during major community durbars ensured coverage and broadcast key messages, further extending the impact of the sensitisation efforts.

a. Community Sensitisations in Saru (Savannah Region)

The sensitisation programme in Saru, a tri-border community in the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District of the Savannah, was conducted in two phases: firstly, a series of targeted individual sessions for men, women, and school children; and secondly, a main community durbar event all held in October 2024. The first phase recorded a total of 356 participants, comprising 101 men, 96 women, and 159 schoolchildren (88 boys and 71 girls). In the second phase, the community durbar recorded 673 participants, comprising 238 males and 236 females. Overall, the sessions engaged 898 registered individuals, comprising 403 women and 427 men. This gender representation highlights the inclusive approach of the programme, ensuring both genders were engaged in the discussions and awareness efforts. The exercises were instrumental in fostering community-wide dialogue regarding transnational organised crime, related challenges, and collective measures to address the issues. A series of sensitisation exercises were conducted targeting the following groups: pupils and students of Saru RC Basic and Junior High School, community women, and community men. In total, 356 participants were recorded, comprising 197 adults and 159 school children. The diverse groups were educated on critical issues related to transnational organised crimes and cross-border cooperation, covering topics such as illegal mining (galamsey), human trafficking, goods smuggling, threats of

terrorism and violent extremism, and boundary management. Strategically positioned, Saru is a tri-border community that shares boundaries with Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, separated by the Black Volta River. The proximity of Saru to the international boundary enhances cross-border trade, particularly in products like cashew nuts and guinea fowl. Additionally, the Black Volta River serves as an essential transportation route for residents/persons traveling between Saru and neighbouring communities. However, the community faces several challenges, notably from illicit activities such as smuggling and illegal mining. These issues are exacerbated by factors such as inaccessible road network, high levels of unemployment and inadequate security along the border.

During an open forum, community members voiced concerns regarding the appropriate timing for reporting suspicious activities and their reluctance to report criminal or suspicious incidents to law enforcement due to fears of victimisation. They also inquired about available channels for reporting crimes and suspicious behaviour. The security personnel present responded to these concerns with guidance and reassurance. Additionally, residents passionately highlighted several pressing issues affecting their well-being, security, and development: the poor condition and inaccessibility of roads leading to the community, the dilapidated state of school facilities; ongoing tensions between farmers and herders; illegal mining activities along the Black Volta River; as well as the lack of electricity supply and healthcare services. These challenges significantly impede community growth and quality of life, prompting residents to express a strong desire for immediate interventions and support from relevant authorities to address these critical issues effectively. Key stakeholders present emphasised that improving community safety, promoting vigilance, and enhancing collaboration among all parties are essential steps to address these challenges. They underscored the importance of both local and international cooperation in combating transnational organised crime. Strategies highlighted included

strengthening intelligence-sharing mechanisms, building local capacities, and fostering community engagement as crucial actions to tackle the root causes of TOC in border regions like Saru. Residents were also urged to take proactive measures to protect their community and work towards a safer and more prosperous future.

Figure 6.5: GIZ/MTOC Targeted and Community Durbar Sensitisation Exercises in Saru, Savannah Region.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, October 2024.

b. Community Sensitisations in Dollar Power (Savannah Region)

The sensitisation exercises in Dollar Power were highly successful, attracting a total of 729 registered participants. The activities were conducted in two phases. The first phase engaged 274 participants through targeted discussions and awareness sessions for traditional leaders, women, and men. The second phase, a community durbar, brought together 455 participants, including traditional authorities, local leaders (tribal chiefs), representatives from security agencies, members of the Bole District Assembly, and community residents. To amplify the reach of these efforts, media sessions and interviews were held at two local radio stations, Nkilgi FM and Yagbon Radio. These engagements promoted the sensitisation programme, informed the public about the Commission's work, and shared findings from field research

conducted a month earlier. The targeted sessions addressed critical issues related to transnational organised crime. Discussions provided an in-depth understanding of various forms of organised crime including human trafficking, sex trade, smuggling, illegal mining, and cattle rustling. Participants were made aware of the adverse effects these activities have on their community, especially given its remote location and limited state security presence. A significant emphasis was placed on the importance of reporting suspicious activities to the appropriate authorities. The youth were cautioned to remain vigilant and resist any attempts by individuals or groups seeking to recruit them into transnational criminal enterprises. Additionally, the sessions explored alternate livelihood opportunities, educating participants on how to avoid the risks associated with dubious travel offers often linked to criminal activities. This holistic approach not

only raised awareness about the dangers of organised crime but also empowered participants to take proactive steps toward safeguarding their community. By fostering a sense of agency and responsibility, the sensitisation exercises strengthened the community's resilience against transnational organised crime while promoting safety and security.

Endowed with mineral deposits, particularly rock-surface gold, Dollar Power has attracted foreign nationals from Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo among others. The strategic location of the community facilitates a diverse range of economic activities including agriculture, livestock rearing, trade, artisanal work, and other businesses such as transportation via ferry and motor vehicles. Residents expressed serious concerns about high unemployment rates and inadequate

infrastructure, including a lack of schools, healthcare facilities, roads, electricity, and sanitation. During the community durbar, they also highlighted the absence of state security forces, limited educational and healthcare resources, and poor telecommunications. They urged the government to invest in infrastructure improvements, create economic opportunities, enhance security measures, and formalize gold mining activities in the area. To combat the stigma surrounding illegal mining practices, residents advocated for a structured Community Mining initiative that would establish a legitimate framework for mining, benefiting the local population while addressing environmental and regulatory issues. Sensitisation messages focused on fostering cooperation and trust among residents and stakeholders to help create a robust and resilient community capable of countering organised crime threats.

Figure 6.6: GIZ/MTOC Targeted and Community Durbar Sensitisation Exercises in Dollar Power, Savannah Region.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 17 October 2024.

c. Community Sensitisations in Dorimon (Upper West Region)

The sensitisation activities in Dorimon were carried out in two phases: targeted sessions and a main community durbar. The targeted sessions engaged 987 registered participants including traditional leaders (chiefs), men, women, and school children. The main community durbar drew 853 registered participants from both Ghana and Burkina Faso. The sessions aimed to raise awareness and foster collaboration on critical issues, involving diverse stakeholders to maximise impact and outreach within the community. In preparation for the sensitisation exercises in Dorimon, the team engaged in a series of discussions with various stakeholders. These included meetings with the Upper West

Regional Minister and members of the Regional Coordinating Council, as well as planning meetings with the Wa West District Assembly. To ensure broad participation and local ownership, the team also engaged with the Wa West District Police Commander, the District Immigration Officer, and the Assemblyman for Dorimon. traditional leaders, including the Paramount Chief, sub-chiefs, and elders of the Dorimon Traditional Area. The team also engaged a few local radio stations in Wa, the regional capital, to disseminate information to a wide audience about the Commission, the M-TOC sensitisation project, and the insights gathered from the research conducted a month earlier.

Figure 6.7: GIZ/MTOC Targeted and Community Durbar Sensitisation Exercises in Dorimon, Upper West Region.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 15 November 2024.

6.6 Recommendations from the Sensitisation Exercises

Based on the various sensitisation exercises, the following recommendations are made:

- **Optimising Sensitisation Programmes:** To enhance maximum participation and effectiveness, it would be prudent to schedule sensitisation programmes during the dry season. This timing approach will help mitigate challenges associated with overflowing riverbanks and inaccessible roads, ensuring that targeted communities and neighbouring ones from across international borders can fully engage in these vital initiatives.
- **Frequent Sensitisation in Border Communities:** Frequent sensitisation in border communities on international boundaries and the role of community residents would enhance effective boundary management. Emphasising border/boundary security and cross-border cooperation as a collective responsibility, involving not only state authorities but also local populations, would foster a sense of ownership and encourage proactive measures among residents. These exercises would also foster more cooperation from residents during joint land boundary reaffirmation exercises.
- **Regular Engagement with Key Stakeholders:** Establishing consistent communication and engagement with state actors and other key stakeholders in border communities is essential. This ongoing dialogue will facilitate the continuous identification and mitigation of issues related to transnational organised crimes, ensuring that responses are timely, relevant, and impactful.
- **Roll out of Livelihood Support Programmes:** The implementation of livelihood support programmes that address human security needs within the communities is crucial. Such initiatives will play a vital role in preventing the emergence of transnational organised crimes by providing communities with sustainable economic opportunities and reducing vulnerability.
- **Expansion of Sensitisation Programmes:** To enhance the effectiveness of the sensitisation

programmes, it is crucial to broaden the scope to encompass more border communities impacted by transnational organised crime, including those in cross-border areas. This expansion will foster a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges these communities face and encourage collaborative solutions across borders.

- **Establishment of more official/approved border entry points:** The border communities, especially Dorimon, expressed the need for more officially recognised border entry points. They urged the Ghana Immigration Service to identify and formalise the many unofficial routes currently in use. In the case of the Wa West District, which has several unapproved routes, the region has only two approved border crossing points at Tumu and Hamile, both of which are situated far from Dorimon. Establishing additional official crossing points would facilitate legal cross-border trade and movement; enhance border security and control; boost local economic activities; and improve regional integration.

6.7 Conclusion

In conclusion, the sensitisation activities conducted by the Ghana Boundary Commission in 2024 represented a pivotal step towards enhancing community engagement in boundary management. By promoting awareness and understanding of boundary-related issues, these initiatives fostered cooperation and dialogue among border communities, addressing the complexities of international boundaries. The targeted and collaborative approach adopted by the Commission ensured inclusivity by involving diverse stakeholders, which cultivated a culture of peace and resilience. Through partnerships with neighbouring countries and support from international projects, the Commission effectively tackled critical topics such as boundary reaffirmation and cross-border cooperation. Ultimately, these efforts laid a strong foundation for sustainable development and strengthened cross-border relations, benefiting both present and future generations.



SECTION SEVEN

INSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

7.1 Introduction

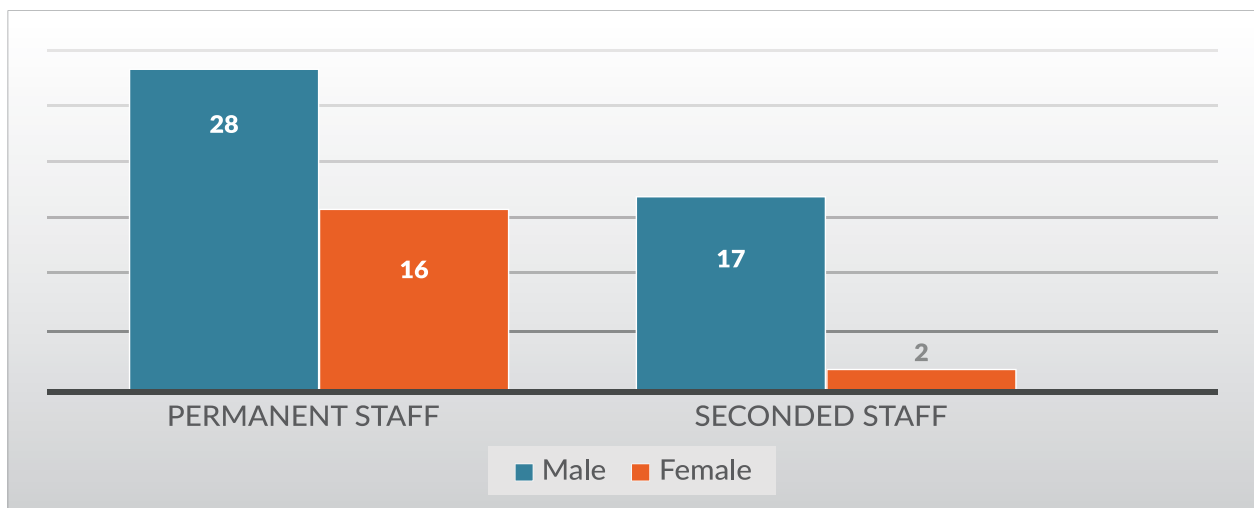
The successful implementation of the mandate of the Ghana Boundary Commission is highly contingent on a skilled, well-equipped, and knowledgeable workforce. In view of this, the Commission, through several administrative procedures and processes, ensured that staff were well positioned to achieve the target set at the beginning of the year. This section outlines key institutional activities carried out in the year under review, highlights the human resource strength of the Commission, staff training and development programmes and initiatives, financial matters, and information technology. The section also captures efforts aimed at monitoring, and evaluating all activities undertaken by the Commission in a bid to

ensure efficiency and effectiveness, financial compliance and address operational constraints.

7.2 Workforce/Human Resource Strength

The total staff strength of the GhBC in 2024 remained unchanged with the total staff strength of sixty-three (63). The number comprises forty-four (44) permanent staff, and nineteen (19) seconded staff from the Ghana Armed Forces, Ministry of National Security, National Intelligence Bureau, and the Ghana Immigration Service. Out of the forty-four (44) permanent staff, twenty-eight (28) are male and sixteen (16) are female; whilst the seconded staff consists of seventeen (17) males and two (2) females.

Figure 7.1: Categorisation of GhBC Personnel/Staff.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission Database, 31 December 2024.

7.3 Staff Development, Training and Capacity Building

Training and development are crucial components of the success and growth of every organisation. They play a significant role in improving the skills, knowledge, and performance of employees while also contributing to the overall effectiveness and competitiveness of the organisation. During the period under review, staff of the Commission benefited from a variety of internally organised and external training programmes.

Table 7.1: List of Staff Training and Capacity Building Sessions.

Serial	Training/Workshop Details	Date and Location	No. of Participants
1.	Maritime Security and Transnational Organised Crime (MSTOC) Course: The course addressed maritime criminal activities in the Gulf of Guinea and their connection to transnational organised crime. It brought together security professionals from Western and Central Africa. Key objectives included identifying maritime security threats, understanding legal issues related to piracy and crime, and promoting regional collaboration to counter transnational crimes	15 to 26 April 2024 - Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC) in Accra, Ghana	1
2.	Summer Academy on the Continental Shelf (SACS): The SACS aimed to share scientific and legal knowledge about the legal framework of the continental shelf, with a specific focus on areas beyond 200 nautical miles. Special emphasis was given to the legal and technical requirements governing entitlements to the establishment of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, as well as the delineation of overlapping entitlements in such areas	21 to 27 April 2024 - Arusha, Tanzania	2
3.	ArcGIS Pro and Online Essential Workflows Training Programme: The training formed part of the procurement package of the ArcGIS Pro Software aimed at enabling the Commission to implement a fully functional geodatabase integrated with a GIS mapping platform for hosting the boundary geospatial information of Ghana.	15 to 19 July 2024 - GhBC Conference Room	5
4.	Training on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law organised by the United States Defence Institute of International Legal Studies: The course highlighted various principles of international law and international humanitarian law in armed conflict situations.	29 to 31 July 2024 - Marriott Hotel, Accra	11
5.	Conference on Ocean Governance: The conference themed "Emerging Issues in Maritime Boundary Delimitation and Ocean Governance in Africa," centred on critical issues such as national boundary structures, maritime security architecture, and broader maritime security concerns in Africa. A notable case study was the Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire ITLOS case, which provided practical lessons on maritime boundary delimitation.	3 to 5 September 2024 - University of Ghana Law School	7
6.	Training Workshop on Maritime Boundary Delimitation organised by IBRU Centre for Borders Research of the Durham University UK: The objective of the workshop training was to develop the necessary skills of participants to achieve an equitable division of maritime space and establish clearly defined maritime boundaries. This was accomplished through a combination of practical exercises and theoretical discussions.	11 to 13 September 2024 - Durham University, UK	2
7.	Training Workshop on International Boundary Dispute Resolution organised by IBRU Centre for Borders Research of the Durham University UK, in collaboration with Foley Hoag LLP: This training provided insight into international boundary dispute mechanisms and involved practical sessions on judicial settlement and arbitration mechanisms and processes.	6 to 8 November 2024 - Metafore, Paris, France	3

Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 December 2024.

Figure 7.2: GhBC Staff at Various External Capacity Building Programmes.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 13 September & 6 November 2024.

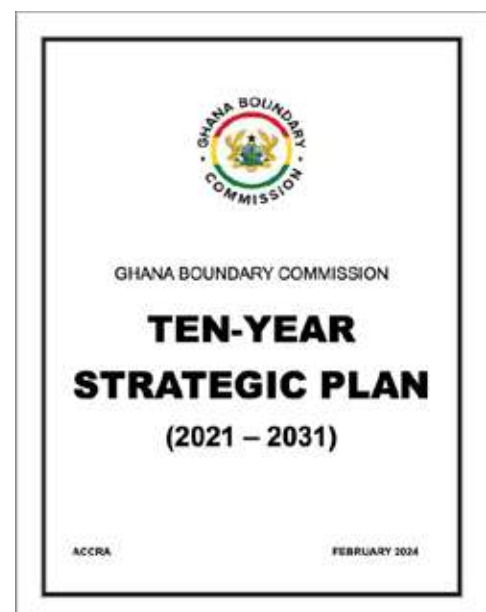
7.4 Staff Performance Appraisal and Engagement

In the course of 2024, the Ghana Boundary Commission assessed the performance of Staff using the 3-Phase Performance Management System of the Public Service Commission. The appraisal of staff through the system was necessary to ensure that staff output aligned with the workplan and work target of the Commission over the period. To ensure that staff understood the Performance Appraisal Management Framework and Template, all stages of the appraisal process were preceded by refresher trainings for all staff of the Commission.

7.5 Revision of the Strategic Plan

In a strategic move to re-align the long-term goals of the Ghana Boundary Commission with evolving trends, the Commission in February 2024 revised the existing Five-Year Strategic Plan to a Ten-Year comprehensive plan covering the year 2021 to 2031. This strategic move aims to enhance the adaptability of the Commission to changing environments and to ensure that the Commission remains strategically relevant over an extended period. By extending the planning horizon to ten years, the Commission seeks to optimise resource allocation, enhance stakeholder

engagement, promote innovation, and drive continuous improvement in its operations. The strategic shift reflects the commitment of the Commission to long-term success, resilience, and strategic foresight in navigating the complexities of the dynamic landscape within which it operates.



7.6 Passage of the Ghana Boundary Commission Bill 2024

The Parliament of Ghana on 18 December 2024 passed the Ghana Boundary Commission Bill 2024 (GhBC Act 1123), replacing the Ghana Boundary Commission Act 795, which had been in effect since 2010. This new legislation, GhBC Act 1123, creates a more robust legal framework to guide the operations of the Ghana Boundary Commission, ensuring its mandate aligns with international best practices and strengthens the ability of Ghana to address boundary-related issues. The law establishes the Office of the Commissioner-General, creates various departments led by directors, and forms three Technical Committees. The new GhBC Bill also expands the authority of the Commission to manage, demarcate, and delineate Ghana's land, maritime, and air boundaries. The legislation empowers the Commission to resolve disputes, reaffirm boundary lines, and maintain peace and stability along the international boundaries of Ghana, all while safeguarding the territorial integrity of the country. A notable aspect of the new law is the expansion of the governing body and a focus on social interventions aimed at improving conditions for residents in deprived border communities. This includes implementing projects to address challenges and promoting cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries to foster mutual understanding and collaboration. The law also introduces measures to address funding challenges by enabling the Commission to generate internal revenue. It emphasises enhanced collaboration with key agencies, including the Lands Commission, to ensure efficient management of boundary-related activities. By providing the Ghana Boundary Commission with these tools and resources, the legislation significantly strengthens its capacity to address boundary issues, resolve conflicts, and uphold the sovereignty and security of the nation.

7.7 Communication and Visibility

To enhance engagement with stakeholders and partners, the Ghana Boundary Commission actively maintained and updated the website

and social media platforms of the Commission with key information throughout the year. These updates featured highlights of significant events and activities, including photos and detailed write-ups. Ninety-three social media posts were made across all social media platforms of the Commission during the year. The social media handles of the Commission are as follows:

- Facebook; Ghana Boundary Commission
- Twitter: @GhBCOfficial
- Instagram: @ghbcofficial
- LinkedIn: Ghana Boundary Commission

Again, as part of efforts to enhance public awareness and increase visibility of the activities and operations of the Commission over the past three years, the Ghana Boundary Commission produced a comprehensive documentary in collaboration with the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC). This initiative aims to showcase the achievements of the Commission, challenges, and strategic interventions in securing the land and maritime boundaries of Ghana, fostering cross-border cooperation, and promoting community resilience. The documentary serves as an educational and advocacy tool, highlighting key projects such as boundary reaffirmation exercises, maritime inspections, community sensitisation programmes and social intervention projects initiated by the Commission. By leveraging this medium, the Commission seeks to foster greater stakeholder engagement and national support for its mandate. The documentary has since been broadcast on national television networks.

Furthermore, the media remained integral to the operations of the Commission in 2024. Noting how strategic the media is in communication, education and information dissemination, the Commission actively engaged the media in all activities. Media personalities and houses from both local and national levels participated in all joint border community engagements, bilateral meetings and stakeholder workshops. The Commission also undertook working visits to key media outlets, including Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, the Multimedia Group, and Despite Media Group; to increase media collaboration

and partnership. The media also played a key role in the commemoration of the 14th African Border Day (ABD), which was marked with series of media engagements and press interviews to sensitise the public on the relevance of the day and other boundary related issues. In the year under review, GhBC developed a comprehensive Communication Strategy and Policy to improve institutional transparency, public knowledge, and stakeholder participation. The strategic documents lay out key approaches to effectively communicate the mandate, activities, and achievements of the Commission to its diverse stakeholders such as government agencies, border communities, and foreign partners. To address boundary-related concerns, foster public involvement in protecting Ghana's land and maritime boundaries, and promote cross-border cooperation with neighbouring states, the strategy emphasises leveraging cutting-edge communication technologies and platforms. The

Commission aims to enhance its prominence and establish itself as a leading organisation in border management and governance by implementing this plan, pending its validation at the start of the next work year.

7.8 Information Technology and Technological Tools

In 2024, the Ghana Boundary Commission made significant strides in enhancing operational capacity and security by procuring and incorporating advanced technological tools and equipment. These acquisitions were critical to supporting the GhBC mission of ensuring accurate boundary demarcation and efficient management of geospatial data. These tools collectively enhance the ability of the Commission to deliver on its mandate with increased accuracy, security, and operational efficiency. Key tools procured are listed in Table 7.2:

Table 7.2: Summary of Technological Tools Procured in 2024.

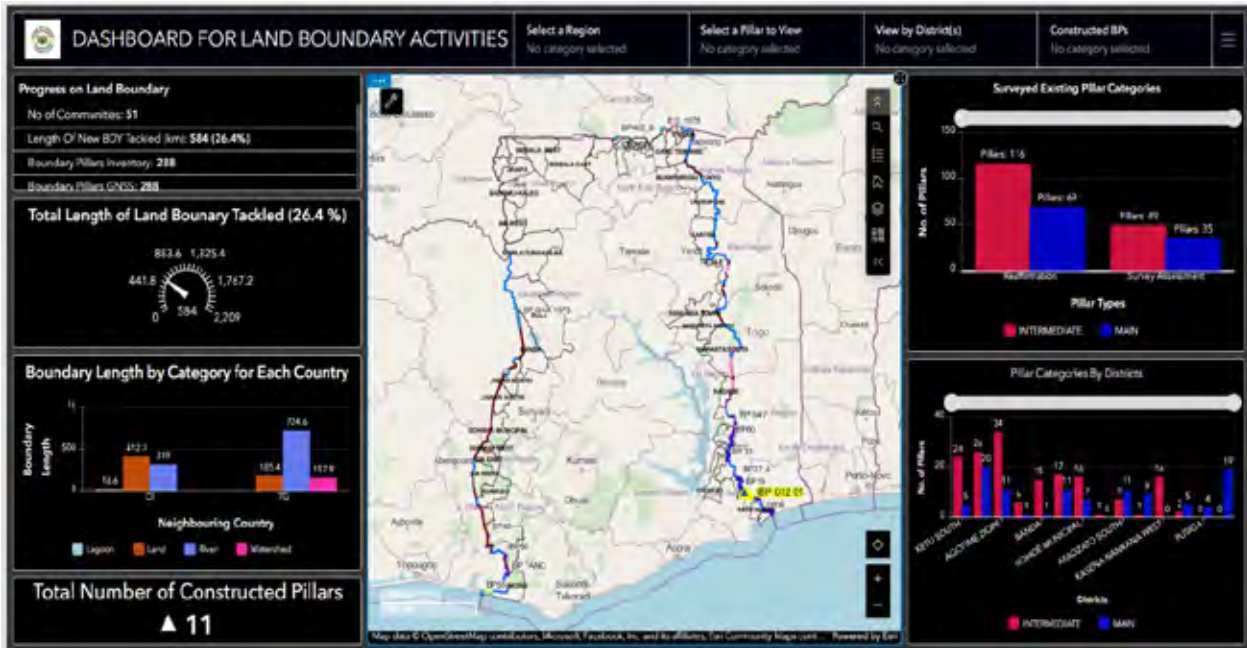
Serial	Description of Items Procured
1	DJI Matrice 350 RTK and Payloads: This includes the Zenmuse P1 RGB Camera and L2 LiDAR payloads, enabling high-precision photogrammetry and LiDAR surveys along boundary lines, ensuring detailed and accurate mapping.
2	Additional Batteries for Deltaquad VTOL UAV: Four extra batteries were acquired to extend the operational efficiency and range of the Deltaquad drone, enhancing its capability for extensive boundary monitoring.
3	ESRI ArcGIS Pro and Online Licenses: These licenses facilitate the creation and implementation of a comprehensive geodatabase, enabling efficient management and analysis of geospatial border data.
4	1-Year RESEPI PC Master License: This license supports the processing of data collected from the Deltaquad VTOL drone, ensuring precise survey outputs for decision-making.
5	Canon 2625i Printer: The Commission replaced its malfunctioning Konica Minolta printer with a new Canon 2625i printer. The IT unit ensured its proper setup and installation at the workstation to enhance document management.
6	SOPHOS Firewall: A new SOPHOS firewall was procured and installed to bolster the Commission's network security, safeguarding critical geospatial and administrative data.
7	UPS for Server Rooms: Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) were procured and installed in server rooms to ensure continuous power supply, mitigating data processing and storage disruptions.

Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 December 2024.

7.9 Boundary Geodatabase

The Commission has taken a significant step toward enhancing boundary management by implementing ESRI's ArcGIS Pro and ArcGIS Online software to host its geodatabase. This cutting-edge GIS platform securely manages Ghana's boundary geospatial data, including surveyed boundary pillars, associated images, orthophotos, topographic features, and legacy geoinformation. This advancement supports the Commission's mission to leverage technology for more effective

Figure 7.3: Screenshot of GhBC Dashboard for Land Boundary Activities.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 December 2024.

governance of the international boundaries of Ghana. One of the primary achievements of this initiative is the development of a geodatabase that serves as a secure and centralized repository for hosting, visualising, and analysing accurate boundary data. This geodatabase provides more reliable information for effective boundary management, facilitates cross-border planning, and supports future boundary dispute resolution. By enabling precise data analysis, the geodatabase strengthens the Commission's ability to make informed decisions and address complex boundary issues. In addition, the Commission has created detailed maps of land boundary field activities, offering a visual representation of key boundary data. A dedicated dashboard has also been deployed, providing real-time insights into the progress of land boundary activities. This dashboard, which can be securely shared with relevant stakeholders and the public, is accessible online at Ghana Boundary Commission Dashboard. This transparency enhances collaboration and accountability in boundary management processes. To further streamline operations, mobile apps have been configured to facilitate seamless field data collection. These tools ensure accurate and efficient data capture, significantly

reducing the time and effort required for field operations. The adoption of the ArcGIS platform underscores the Commission's commitment to using advanced technology to improve boundary governance, foster cross-border collaboration, and safeguard Ghana's territorial integrity

7.10 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Knowledge Learning

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is crucial for ensuring effective performance, accountability, informed decision-making, resource optimisation, and demonstrating impact within the Commission. To institutionalise M & E into the operations of the Commission, a structured framework was developed. This document outlines the strategic approach to achieving the objectives of the Commission through a robust monitoring and evaluation system. This led to the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Policy which aims to ensure that all operations align with the vision, mission, and strategic objectives, fostering a cohesive and goal-oriented organisational culture. Additionally, data collection templates were designed to enhance the efficiency and consistency of data collection and reporting by the M&E Unit. To ensure effective utilisation, focal persons from

various departments received in-house training on these tools. This initiative promotes a culture of evidence-based decision-making within the Commission. Also, the Commission introduced quarterly M&E validation meetings to critically assess and validate its activities and programmes.

7.11 Financial Matters

As required of all government institutions, the Ghana Boundary Commission successfully completed the 2024 financial reporting process, culminating in the submission of statements for audit. The Commission also automated the processing of Payment Vouchers (PVs), ensuring timely execution and eliminating the risk of duplicate entries. All budget expenditures were managed through the Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) with full compliance to all financial regulations in accordance with national and international laws. Financial Statements were prepared in accordance with the Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). On managing the expenditure accounts of the Commission, the Ghana Boundary Commission conducted regular reconciliation of expenditure accounts to guarantee the

accuracy of financial transactions and detect irregularities. This ensured timely and accurate processing of payments for goods, services, and staff compensation. The Commission submitted a proposed budget of GH¢ 47,175,702.96 for the 2024 fiscal year. However, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) approved a reduced allocation of GH¢ 5,835,812.00, representing 12.3% of the proposed budget. Over the course of the year, a total of GH¢ 4,756,448.22 was released to the Commission for goods and services and employee compensation. An amount of GH¢500,000.00 was approved for Capital Expenditure (CAPEX), but the allocation was not disbursed resulting in a nil balance as shown in Table 7.2. For employee compensation, the Commission had budgeted GH¢ 6,368,122.00. Of this, GH¢ 4,335,812.00 was approved by the Ministry of Finance, and GH¢4,016,591.43 was released and paid by the Controller and Accountant General Department (CAGD). In preparation for the upcoming fiscal year, the Commission developed and submitted the 2025 budget and the 2025-2028 Medium-Term Development Plan to the MoF through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.

Table 7.3: Summary of Budgetary Estimate for 2024.

ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION	BUDGETED BY GhBC GHS	APPROVED BY MoF GHS	AMOUNT RELEASED GHS	PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS RELEASED
Compensation	6,368,122.00	4,335,812.00	4,016,591.43	93%
Goods & Services	23,324,738.56	1,000,000.00	739,856.79	74%
Capex	17,482,842.40	500,000.00	NIL	
TOTAL	47,175,702.96	5,835,812.00	4,756,448.22	

Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 December 2024.

7.12 Conclusion

In 2024, the Ghana Boundary Commission demonstrated unwavering commitment to enhancing operational efficiency, staff development, and institutional resilience. Through strategic investments in human resource capacity, robust training programs, and the adoption of advanced technological tools, the Commission strengthened capabilities to deliver on the mandated objectives effectively. Efforts in revising the strategic plan, streamlining performance appraisals, and prioritising monitoring and evaluation reflect a forward-looking approach to addressing operational challenges and aligning with evolving boundary management needs. Despite financial constraints, the Commission maintained fiscal discipline, ensuring accountability and prudent use of resources. Overall, the institutional processes and procedures implemented by the Commission during the year under review underscore dedication to fostering an adaptable, innovative, and results-driven organisation capable of meeting boundary management objectives.



SECTION EIGHT

CHALLENGES OF THE GHANA BOUNDARY COMMISSION

8.1 Introduction

The Commission encountered significant challenges in 2024 which in some instances hampered the effective and efficient execution of its workplan and mandate. These challenges arose from both external and internal, necessitating a high degree of adaptability and flexibility in their management. This section outlines some of the key challenges the Commission navigated in the discharge of duty during the 2024 operational year. Addressing these challenges is essential to ensuring the safety of personnel, improving operational efficiency, and achieving the mandate of the Commission.

8.2 Displacement/Removal of International Boundary Pillars and Boundary Encroachments

Field operations conducted by the Commission in 2024 revealed critical issues concerning the displacement and removal of international boundary pillars along the International Boundary Line. Several of these key boundary markers were found displaced or removed from their original positions due to natural phenomena, such as flooding and environmental degradation, as well as deliberate human activities, including illegal mining. The displacement of these boundary markers raises serious concerns, as they are

Figure 8.1: Displaced Boundary Pillar along the Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire International Boundary Line.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 27 February 2024.

crucial for defining and safeguarding Ghana's territorial sovereignty. Their displacement or destruction could lead to territorial disputes and undermine the country's control over its borders. Additionally, encroachment into buffer zones within border communities posed another significant challenge. Along the Ghana/Burkina Faso boundary, urban development has begun to infringe on buffer areas, even encroaching dangerously close to international boundary pillars. Such violations not only breach international law but also threaten regional stability and security. These findings highlight the critical importance of continuous vigilance in monitoring boundary markers and addressing encroachments. To tackle these issues effectively, the GhBC engaged the National Boundary Commission of Burkina Faso and other key border officials. Joint inspections and community sensitisation initiatives were conducted in affected areas to raise awareness and address the challenges. Bilateral discussions at the strategic level between the two countries further underscored a shared commitment to maintaining clear and respected boundaries while enhancing security along their common orders.

8.3 Limited Access to and Storage of Boundary Legacy Documents

The search, retrieval and management of international boundary legacy documents such as maps, charts, treaties, and reports defining the international boundaries of Ghana are vital to the operational activities of the Commission. However, this process proved to be quite challenging as many of these documents are either unavailable or difficult to locate. Furthermore, the condition of some documents, dating back to the late 19th and 20th centuries, is often fragile or damaged which complicates their use. This situation thus slowed down the operations of the Commission, hindering its ability to carry out the mandate effectively. To overcome these obstacles, the Commission has initiated engagement with the regional offices of the Public Records and Archives Administration

Department (PRAAD) to secure relevant legacy documents that support boundary operations. Additionally, efforts are underway to engage libraries and other institutions to conduct comprehensive searches for these critical records. The Commission also plans to engage external sub-regional and international organisations including the neighbouring boundary commissions and the British National Archives to locate and acquire relevant legacy documents. The fragility of these historical documents requires careful preservation and storage; however, the Commission does not have the appropriate storage facilities. Therefore, the Commission needs to acquire map cabinets and other necessary equipment to properly store these legacy documents.

8.4 Support for Social Intervention Projects

The GhBC recognises that the development of border communities and the active involvement of border residents are essential for effective boundary and national security management. Hence, the Commission intensified efforts to identify human security needs of underserved border communities and facilitate appropriate interventions. In 2024, the Commission identified eight schools and two health facilities in need rehabilitation within these communities. As a follow-up, proposals were developed and submitted to development partners and stakeholders to secure support the rehabilitation efforts. While only two of these proposals received positive responses during the year, the Commission remains steadfast in its commitment to engaging with partners and stakeholders to mobilise resources necessary to address the developmental challenges in underserved border communities.

8.5 Budgetary Allocation and Delay in the Release of Funds

The work of the Ghana Boundary Commission is highly capital-intensive, yet GhBC faces significant challenges due to insufficient budgetary allocations. The funding provided

by the Government of Ghana for the essential activities of the Commission has proven inadequate to meet projected operational needs. Additionally, delays in the disbursement of funds have prevented the Commission from receiving the full amount allocated for the fiscal year. This combination of factors considerably hindered the ability of the Commission to carry out vital work throughout the year. To enhance operational efficiency and ensure timely execution of boundary management activities, future budgetary provisions must be both adequate and promptly disbursed. Addressing these financial constraints will empower the Commission to fulfil its mandate effectively and contribute to national stability and security through proper boundary management.

8.6 Lack of Key Technical Tools, Equipment and Logistics

The field and technical team of the Commission faces significant challenges due to a shortage of essential tools and accessories for conducting accurate boundary surveys. This includes the need for additional GNSS equipment and accessories including bipods, tripods, tribachs, and telescopic poles. These tools are essential for the effective operation of GNSS equipment; thus, the lack of them hindered the ability of the Commission to conduct GNSS surveys of boundary pillars efficiently, forcing the team to rely on external sources to maintain progress. Additionally, the processing of GIS data, images, and LiDAR data necessitates the use of high-speed, large-capacity computers equipped with powerful CPUs and GPU graphics. The absence of such workstations for both office and fieldwork results in significant delays, impeding the department's ability to process large datasets efficiently and undermining the timeliness of its operations.

The field team also face significant risks while navigating remote and/or hazardous terrains, primarily due to a limited supply of robust or terrain-versatile vehicles and personal protective equipment such as life vests, wellington boots, helmets and goggles. This

lack of essential resources not only endangers the safety of GhBC personnel but also impedes the operational effectiveness of the Commission. Addressing these equipment and resource constraints is critical to improving the operational capabilities and productivity of the Commission. Closing these critical gaps in equipment and infrastructure will significantly improve the safety, coordination, and overall effectiveness of GhBC operations in challenging border environments.

Figure 8.2: GhBC Field Team Navigate Remote and Extreme Terrains to locate International Boundary Pillars.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 12 January 2024.

8.7. Field Communication and Coordination Challenges

Remote border communities often lack functional telecommunication infrastructure, leading to frequent communication blackouts that pose serious safety and coordination challenges for field teams. The absence of reliable networks isolates personnel during missions, increasing their vulnerability and reducing operational effectiveness. To address these challenges, investing in mobile communication solutions, such as satellite phones or portable communication devices, is essential to ensuring the safety and connectivity of field staff. Furthermore, advocating for improved telecommunications infrastructure in border communities through strategic partnerships with service providers can yield long-term benefits, ensuring GhBC field teams remain connected and coordinated during field operations. Additionally, many technological tools and equipment used by field teams require internet connectivity for optimal performance. The lack of mobile internet capabilities in remote areas severely limits the scope and functionality of these tools. Establishing mobile internet solutions in these regions is critical to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of field operations and maximising the potential of advanced technologies.

8.8 Challenging Boundary Terrains and Adverse Weather Conditions

The international land boundary of Ghana, bordered by Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, and Togo

is characterised by diverse geographical features, including rugged mountains, dense forests, expansive floodplains, and low savannahs. These varied landscapes pose significant challenges in locating and identifying existing boundary pillars, particularly during the rainy season when conditions render such operations perilous and labour-intensive. Budgetary constraints and the time-sensitive nature of available funds often compel field teams to conduct operations during these unfavourable months. Adverse weather during the rainy season often hampers access to mission sites, causing delays and necessitating the rescheduling of field activities and community engagement in some areas. Flooding and poor road conditions further impede mobility for personnel and the transport of essential materials. For instance, field have encountered challenges, including the immobilisation of mission vehicles in muddy conditions and staff crossing rivers in canoes due to flooded or closed roads. To address these challenges, it is essential to schedule operations during drier months whenever possible. Collaboration with funding institutions to establish contingency plans, including alternative dates or locations, can help mitigate weather-related disruptions. Investments in infrastructure, such as improving road conditions through partnerships with relevant authorities or development partners, are also essential. These measures will enhance operational efficiency, ensure smoother access to remote border areas, and support Commission's boundary management initiatives effectively.

Figure 8.3: GhBC Sensitisation Team Bravely Navigate International Boundary Lines with Challenging Terrains.



Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 10 & 12 October 2024.

8.9. Safety and Life Insurance for Personnel

One of the most pressing issues is the lack of life and accident insurance for field personnel, who are frequently exposed to numerous risks while executing their duties. Fieldwork often requires navigating hazardous terrains, including mountainous areas and regions infested with poisonous wildlife, while carrying heavy equipment for hours. Although some personal protective equipment (PPE), such as rugged footwear, high-visibility vests, and hard hats, is available, the supply is inadequate to meet the needs of the field team during operations. The absence of insurance coverage exacerbates the vulnerability of field staff, as they remain unprotected against accidents, injuries, or even fatalities that may occur during operations. Securing comprehensive life and accident insurance for all personnel is critical to safeguarding their welfare and boosting morale.

8.10. Training and Capacity Building

While staff of the Commission benefited from several training and capacity building programmes during the year, there remains a pressing need for advanced technical training in key areas. Specifically, for technical teams in departments such as the Survey and Delimitation Department, specialised training is required in cartographic maritime boundary delimitation. This includes developing proficiency in specialised software such as CARIS LOTS, Fugro Roames Marine Mapping Suite, GeoCap Maritime, and similar tools essential for accurately demarcating maritime boundaries. These tools, used alongside official documents, treaty data, and expert legal advice, ensure that maritime boundaries align with international laws, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Such specialised tools and training are particularly crucial as the department prepares for forthcoming maritime boundary negotiations with neighbouring countries.

8.11 Inadequate Office Accommodation

Another challenge impacting the operational effectiveness of the Ghana Boundary Commission is the lack of adequate office accommodation. Currently, operating from a rented facility, the Commission faces high rental costs and limited space, which restrict its capacity for future expansion. To enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness, the Commission needs a permanent and more spacious office. Securing such a facility is critical for the long-term success and sustainability of the Commission. This investment would not only reduce operational costs but also create a conducive environment for productivity and innovation. A permanent office would strengthen the Commission's capacity to manage activities more effectively and meet the growing demands associated with boundary management in Ghana.

8.12 Conclusion

In 2024, the Ghana Boundary Commission marked significant milestones despite encountering challenges that impeded progress during the year. Budget constraints limited the implementation of critical projects and impacted operational efficiency. Additionally, the lack of adequate tools hindered effective boundary operations, while the displacement of boundary pillars and encroachments within boundary buffer zones posed national security risks requiring collaborative solutions. Despite these challenges, the GhBC's steadfast commitment to its mandate inspired staff, who demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination in overcoming these difficulties. Moving forward, systematically addressing these issues will be essential to enhancing the Commission's operational efficiency and effectiveness. This approach will not only strengthen its capacity but also ensure the sustainable management of Ghana's international land and maritime boundaries for future generations.



SECTION NINE

FORECAST OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR 2025

9.1 Introduction

The GhBC leveraged partnerships, support, and cooperation with key stakeholders across all levels to execute the mandate of the Commission in 2024. The Commission achieved several milestones in line with the Strategic Plan and the 2024 workplan focusing on institutional capacity building, cross-border cooperation, joint reaffirmation exercises with neighbouring countries, sensitisation of border communities as well as field research to support decision making. These milestones set the stage for implementing key activities in the coming year. In 2025, the Commission intends to intensify collaborative efforts, bringing on board new development partners and engaging more actively with existing ones. The major activities the Commission plans to undertake in 2025 are enumerated in this section.

9.2 Joint Ghana/Burkina Faso Land Boundary Reaffirmation Exercises

The Ghana Boundary Commission in partnership with the National Land Boundary Commission of Burkina Faso plans to commence the joint reaffirmation of the common land boundary between Ghana and Burkina Faso. The exercise is tentatively scheduled to begin between February and March 2025.

9.3 Joint Ghana/ Cote d'Ivoire Land Boundary Reaffirmation Exercises

For the year 2025, the agreed-upon activities for the joint land boundary reaffirmation with Cote d'Ivoire include:

- Completion of Reaffirmation Phase 1: This phase will focus on finalising the joint reaffirmation exercise along the common land boundary between Ghana and Cote

d'Ivoire, scheduled for implementation from January to March 2025.

- Commencement of Reaffirmation Phase 2: This subsequent phase of the joint land boundary reaffirmation exercise is planned for September and October 2025.

9.4 Joint Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire Maritime Boundary Activities

Following bilateral meetings held between the boundary commissions of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire in 2024, the following key activities have been outlined for implementation in 2025:

- Jointly deposit the Cote d'Ivoire-Ghana maritime boundary common map at DOALOS, United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 April 2025.
- Organise two joint maritime boundary patrols in collaboration with the Navies of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, scheduled for April and August 2025.
- Collect and harmonise data for lagoons and lakes that serve as boundaries between 22 May to 31 July 2025.
- Organise a data validation workshop and establish a common database from 27–29 August 2025.
- Prepare a common map of lagoons and lakes along the boundary from 27–29 August 2025.
- Draft Framework Agreement on Cross-Border Cooperation and Management of Water Resources by March 2025.
- Adopt the Framework Agreement on Cross-Border Cooperation and Management of Water Resources between August and December 2025.

9.5 Joint Ghana/Nigeria Maritime Boundary Activities

During their second plenary meeting in November 2024, GhBC and the National Boundary Commission of Nigeria approved a proposed 2025 Workplan for the Joint Technical Committee outlining the following Key Performance Indicators/Activities:

- Establish the baseline for the delimitation of the maritime boundary line as Extended Continental Shelf by the end of February 2025.
- Hold a meeting for the determination and computation of the Provisional Equidistance Line of the maritime boundary from 2 to 3 April 2025 in Abuja, Nigeria.
- Conduct a meeting to discuss and harmonise the provisional line, including any adjustment and other maritime boundary-related issues, from 24 to 25 June 2025 in Accra, Ghana.
- Present the final report of the Joint Technical Committee to the Joint Ghana/Nigeria Boundary Commissions Annual Plenary Meeting on 25–26 November 2025 in Accra, Ghana.

9.6 Operational Assessments and Surveys along the International Boundaries

As part of its mandate, the Commission plans to conduct mapping and operational surveys in selected border areas to evaluate and audit boundary pillars and markers. These activities support joint efforts to reaffirm Ghana's international boundaries with neighbouring countries. Operational assessment planned for 2025 include:

- Conduct an operational assessment at Ampeyo/Fotoyeye in the Kadjebi District of the Oti Region in January 2025 to verify claims of alleged encroachment at Fortor on lands belonging to the Ampeyo traditional area of Ghana.
- Carry out an operational and mapping survey at Dormaa-Nkrankwanta-Gonokrom to investigate encroachment on IBL.

9.7 Research Publications

In line with the 5th Strategic Objective of the Commission on policy framework, the Commission will develop policy briefs and articles broadly on boundary management and governance. These publications aim to support decision-making, contribute to knowledge on boundary related issues, and address emerging security trends along Ghana's international boundaries. The policy briefs and articles will be published and made accessible through the GhBC website. Additionally, the Commission will conduct field research, with findings also publish on the website to enhance transparency and inform stakeholders.

9.8 Border Community Sensitisation Exercises

In 2025, the Commission will continue conducting sensitisation exercises along Ghana's international boundaries, focusing on issues such as boundary reaffirmation, cross-border cooperation, and combating transnational organised crimes. These activities are essential for engaging border community residents as key stakeholders in boundary management and the work of the Ghana Boundary Commission. The sensitisation exercises will include community durbars, targeted sessions for specific groups such as men, women, and children, and local radio engagements to ensure wide outreach. It is worth mentioning that some of these activities will be conducted jointly with the national boundary commissions of neighbouring countries and will extend to border communities in those countries as well.

9.9 Social Intervention Projects

The implementation of social intervention projects in underserved border communities will be a key priority for the GhBC in 2025. This focus reflects the Commission's recognition of the vital role border communities play in supporting GhBC's mandate. In 2024, the Commission initiated engagements with development partners including France, Japan and China to

garner support for these initiatives. The GhBC will continue to build on these partnerships to secure resources for implementing projects that address the needs of underserved border communities. Proposed social intervention projects for 2025 include;

- Construction of a three-unit dilapidated Sapelliga Primary School in the Bawku West District
- Construction of a six-unit classroom block with toilet facilities in Dollar Power (Bole District of the Savannah Region).
- Rehabilitation of a seven-unit primary school block and construction of a six-unit toilet facility in Elubo Cocoa Town (Jomoro Municipal, Western Region).
- Rehabilitation of a three-unit classroom block with two staff common rooms in Elubo Cocoa Town (Jomoro Municipal, Western Region).
- Rehabilitation of a three-unit classroom Leklebi Kame Junior High School (JHS) the Afadjato South District of the Volta Region
- Rehabilitation of a three-unit classroom block and construction of a staff common room and toilet facility for Kpoeta Kpodzi Junior High School (JHS) in Ho West District, Volta Region
- Renovation of a six-unit classroom block and construction of six-seater toilet facility and drilling of mechanised bore Hole for Kpoeta- Achem Primary and Junior High School in Ho West District, Volta Region.
- Rehabilitation of the Akporkploe Health Centre in the Ketu South Municipality, Volta Region.

9.10 Bilateral Technical Meetings with Neighbouring Boundary Commissions

The Commission will host and participate in Joint Technical Committee Meetings with Togo, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire to discuss boundary reaffirmation modalities and explore

potential cross-border cooperation projects. Akey highlight will be the fourth Joint Ghana-Côte d'Ivoire Technical Committee Meeting, scheduled to take place in Accra.

9.11 Capacity Building of Staff

The successful delivery of the Commission's mandate depends on a skilled and adaptable workforce. To support this, management will facilitate staff participation in relevant training and capacity building programmes. A comprehensive training plan will be developed to identify key competency gaps and establish training and development priorities. This plan will guide the recommendation and selection of staff for further training, ensuring a proficient and efficient team. Additionally, in-house training and awareness sessions will be organised on critical topics, including Performance Management Systems, Standard Operating Procedures, Gender Policy, and the Disciplinary and Grievance Processes, to enhance staff knowledge and operational efficiency.

9.12 Communication and Visibility

In 2025, the GhBC will enhance its communication efforts to increase public awareness and stakeholder engagement in boundary management and cross-border cooperation. Planned activities include regular press briefings, feature articles, radio and television programmes, and active use of digital platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram to share information on the Commission's activities, achievements, and strategic objectives. By leveraging media partnerships, the Commission aims to foster greater transparency, educate border communities on critical boundary issues, and promote peaceful coexistence and collaboration along Ghana's international boundaries.

9.13 Commemoration of the 2025 African Border Day

The Commission will mark the 15th Edition of the African Border Day with activities designed

to educate the public on the significance of the day and the role of the GhBC in safeguarding Ghana's international boundaries. Plans are also underway to celebrate the ABD in partnership with one of Ghana's neighbouring countries, reinforcing the spirit of cross-border cooperation and regional unity.

9.14 Joint Activities with Development Partners

Building on successful engagements in 2024, the Commission, in collaboration with key development partners, plans to implement social intervention projects in underserved border communities and undertake cross-border cooperation initiatives. Key partners include Japan, through its implementing agency, JICA; Germany, through GIZ (M-TOC and SKBoWa projects) and the Embassy of China.

9.15 Budget Requirements for 2025

The summary of the 2025 budget requirements for the Commission submitted to the Ministry of Finance is stated at Table 9.1.

Table 9.1: Summary of Budgeted Figures for 2025.

Serial	Economic Classification	2025 Budgeted Figures in Ghc
1.	Compensation	6,554,640.17
2.	Goods and Services	17,641,600.00
3.	CAPEX	12,482,842.00
Total		36,679,082.17

Source: Ghana Boundary Commission, 31 December 2024.

NB: The budgeted figures submitted to the Ministry of Finance for 2025 are yet to be approved and are subject to the final decision of the Ministry. Adjustments may be made during the approval process.

9.16 Conclusion

In 2025, the GhBC will build on the successes of 2024 by strengthening partnerships with key stakeholders, both existing and new. The reaffirmation of land boundaries with Burkina Faso, Togo, and Cote d'Ivoire, alongside community sensitisation programmes, underscores the Commission's commitment to enhancing border security, cooperation, and community engagement. Planned maritime boundary inspections, to be carried out in collaboration with the Ghana Navy and the National Boundary Commission of Cote d'Ivoire, reflect a strategic focus on securing and managing Ghana's territorial integrity comprehensively. Achieving these goals will require adequate budgetary support to enable the successful implementation of these crucial activities, thereby enhancing regional harmony and national security.

PROFILE OF THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL



Maj Gen EW Kotia, PhD

Dr Emmanuel Wekem Kotia is a Major General of the Ghana Armed Forces. He has served honourably with the military colours for 40 years. He has distinguished himself as an international analyst and expert in Defence and Security over the years. He is an astute lecturer and speaker at various national and international forums on topics related international/national security; international politics and defence studies. General Kotia is the founding Commissioner General of the Ghana Boundary Commission since 2019. His immediate past appointment before then was Commander of the Western Sector of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the

Democratic Republic of Congo from 2018 to 2019. He had previously served as the Deputy Commandant of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC), Ghana from 2015 to 2018. By way of academic qualifications, he holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree (First Class Honours) in Political Science from the University of Ghana, Master of Science Degree (MSc) in Global Security from the Cranfield University of the United Kingdom; and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science from the University of Ghana. He was appointed a Clinical Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at the Kennesaw State University, USA in 2013. He delivered a three-credit course for students of the PhD and Master's Courses in International Conflict Management at the Kennesaw State University from 2013 to 2017. He was also appointed a Visiting Lecturer of University of Bedfordshire in the United Kingdom in 2014 to 2018 where he taught a three-credit course in peace and security for the International Relations post graduate course.

General Kotia was commissioned into the Ghana Armed Forces in 1986 into the Artillery Corps of the Ghana Army after enlistment to the military as an Officer Cadet on 2 November 1984. Within the Ghana military

he was the Commanding Officer of the 66 Artillery Regiment of the Ghana Army from 2005 to 2009. He also served as a Directing Staff/Lecturer at the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College from 2009 to 2011. He was the Chief Instructor and Academic Programmes Coordinator of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre from 2011 to 2016. He served as one of the longest serving instructors at the Ghana Military Academy from 1993 to 2000. He was awarded a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Ghana Armed Forces in August 2001. He has served in several UN Peace Operations as a peacekeeper, including four tours with the UN Mission in Lebanon (1987, 1991, 2000/2001 and 2006/2007). He was the Commanding Officer of the Ghana Battalion with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon from 2006 to 2007. Other Peace Operations missions he has served are: ECOMOG (Liberia, 1990), MINURSO (Western Sahara, 1994), UNTAC (Cambodia, 1992), UNAMIR (Rwanda, 1993), MONUC (DRC, 2002) and MONUSCO (DRC, 2018/2019).

General Kotia led the process of acquiring Institutional and Programmes Accreditation for the running academic courses at the Ghana Armed Force

Command and Staff College (GAFSC) and KAIPTC. He was subsequently the lead consultant that developed the KAIPTC Master of Arts degree courses in Conflict, Peace and Security (2012); Gender, Peace and Security (2013); and the PhD course in International Conflict Management (2016). He taught two courses on the KAIPTC academic programmes namely: Gender, War and Conflict in Africa and National Security Framework from 2012 to 2018. He also lectured and supervised dissertations for the PhD course at KAIPTC in International Conflict Management. He has supervised and examined over 40 dissertations for the various masters' courses at KAIPTC. He also led the development of the Master of Science course in Defence and International Politics for the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College (GAFSC) in 2014. He teaches the core courses on: Theories and Analysis of Defence; and Peace Operations in Contemporary Perspectives at the GAFSC Master of Science course. He has supervised and examined over 60 MSc dissertations in Defence and International Politics at GAFSC. He is currently an Adjunct lecturer for the Masters of Laws (LLM) course on National Security Law at the University of Ghana Law School; He teaches as an adjunct lecturer for the Masters course in Peace, Security and Intelligence Management; and the PhD course in International Security and Intelligence at

the University of Professional Studies, Accra. He also briefly served as an Adjunct Lecturer for the Masters course in International Relations at Webster University (Accra Campus). He was appointed as the sole consultant for the development of a PhD course in International Security and Intelligence for UPSA in 2021. General Kotia was a Consultant for the Constitution Review Commission of Ghana; and he also served as a member of a team of experts which drafted the National Peace Council Bill of Ghana (Act 818). He was the chairperson of a committee that drafted the Security and Intelligence Act of Ghana (Act 1030, 2020); and the National Signals Bureau Act of Ghana (Act 1040, 2020). He served as a consultant and the sole resource expert for the establishment of the Ghana Police Command and Staff College in 2014. He chaired a Technical Working Groups that developed the first National Security Strategy for Ghana, 2020; and the National Framework for the Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism in Ghana, 2019. He was the lead consultant who led the drafting of Legislative Instruments for the Ministry of National Security and all the Intelligence Agencies under the Ministry. He served as a member of the Governing Board of the Ghana Police Command and Staff College; a member of the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ghana (2017 to 2019); and a member of the Board of

Directors of E-crime Bureau, Ghana (2015 to 2019). General Kotia has served as a regular facilitator to the Parliament of Ghana for orientation workshops and other related workshops on National Security Perspectives for Members of Parliament from 2013 to 2024.

General Kotia has published a number of papers/articles to his credit. They include: the Unwinding of UN Peace Operations in Africa; the Principle and Reality of Legislative Oversight on Defence Matters in Liberal Democracies; Understanding the Geo-Politics of the War in Southern Lebanon; the Global Effects of the 33-day War in Lebanon; Gender and Conflicts in Africa: Gains and Losses; Liberia: History of the Origins of War and Profile of Actors; Military Professionalism in Peacekeeping; An Evolving Security Dilemma: Adopting a Comprehensive Approach to the Changing Dynamics of Terrorism in Africa; and Emerging Security Issues in Africa. He was the main reviewer of the book on Indigenous African Warfare authored by Colonel Festus Aboagye (retired). He has authored a book titled: Ghana Armed Forces in Lebanon and Liberia Peace Operations. The book was published by Lexington Books, USA in May 2015. The book has been adopted as a textbook by notable institutions of higher learning for the running of the post graduate courses. He is a visiting lecturer/facilitator to several institutions and universities within and outside

Ghana notably including: Ghana Police Command and Staff College; University of Professional Studies, Ghana; University of Ghana School of Law; University of Bedfordshire (UK); Kennesaw State University

(USA); the United States Military Academy at West Point; and Webster University. His areas of research interest are in Defence Studies; International/National Security; and International Politics.

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PROFILE OF THE DIRECTORS



Col HK Badasu

**Acting Chief of Staff
and Director, Boundary
Operations Department**

Colonel Henry Kwaku Badasu, a distinguished Senior Army Officer in the Ghana Armed Forces, serves as the Acting Chief of Staff and Director of Boundary Operations at the Commission. With extensive expertise in boundary operations, he oversees precision exercises and assessments along Ghana's international land boundaries. Decorated for his contributions to UN peacekeeping missions across Africa and the Middle East, including UNAMSIL, UNIFIL, and UNMISS, Colonel Badasu exemplifies exceptional leadership and crisis management skills. He has held key roles such as Chief Operations Officer at ECOMIG Force Headquarters in Gambia, Deputy Commander VIP Protection Force in Côte

d'Ivoire, and Deputy Director Army Peacekeeping Operations. Known for his unwavering dedication and integrity, Colonel Badasu brings a wealth of experience to every mission he undertakes. His academic credentials include a Master of Arts degree from the University of Yaoundé, strategic leadership training from the War College, and certifications in International Boundary Demarcation (UK) and Public Administration (GIMPA). Fluent in English and French, Colonel Badasu's global perspective enables him to navigate diverse environments with ease. A paragon of professionalism, he upholds the highest standards of service within the Ghana Armed Forces and beyond.

Mrs. Sarah Okaeboa Ekuban is the Director for the Policy, Plans, Monitoring and Evaluation (PPME) Department at the Commission. With this role, Sarah is responsible among other things for coordinating and overseeing the development, management,

and implementation of strategic documents including plans, policies, and programmes for the Commission, and leading the Commission's engagements with relevant stakeholders whose inputs are relevant to achieving the Commission's mandate. Mrs. Ekuban holds a

Master of Arts in International Affairs degree (African Studies option) from Ohio University, Athens, USA, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (Graphic Design Option) from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. She has over the years served



Mrs Sarah Ekuban

**Director, Policy, Plans, Monitoring
& Evaluation Department**

in managerial and leadership positions with different local and international organizations/firms within the peace and security as well as advertising and communication sectors. Sarah previously served in research, training, planning, coordination, and evaluation capacities at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and headed the Design and Production Unit at the Centre where she spearheaded and facilitated a number of strategic communication efforts to enhance the Centre's visibility.

Sarah has published a number of articles on contemporary and emerging peace and security issues and served as lead and facilitator on a number of Border Security Management, Small Arms and Light Weapons, Transnational Organised Crimes and other conflict, peace, and security programmes/courses. Sarah's clarity of vision, passion, commitment and originality have contributed immensely to the success of the PPP Department's activities and that of the Ghana Boundary Commission in general.



Rev Herbert Djaba

**Director, Survey and
Delimitation Department**

Rev. Herbert Komesour Djaba is the Director of the Survey and Delimitation Department. He is a licensed surveyor (No. 294) and a Professional Member of the Ghana Institution of Surveyors (No. 834). Rev. Djaba, a seasoned professional in geospatial engineering, with

expertise in photogrammetry, geoinformatics, and geodetic engineering, holds an MSc in Photogrammetry and Geoinformatics from the University of Applied Science in Stuttgart, Germany; a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems from the ITC in the Netherlands; and a BSc (Hons) in Geodetic Engineering from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. He also has a Diploma in Theology from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Saltpond, Ghana. With a career spanning over two decades, Rev. Djaba has specialized in collecting, processing, and mapping geospatial data for a variety of sectors, including dispute resolution, engineering, GIS, mining, oil and gas, cadastre, and agriculture. His contributions extend beyond Ghana, with impactful roles in

Sweden, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and other countries. Among his achievements is his leadership in boundary reaffirmation projects and his pivotal role in integrating advanced geospatial technologies like GNSS, UAV mapping and LiDAR systems, setting new benchmarks in geospatial data accuracy and application. He also led the conceptualization and development of the Boundary Geodatabase and tools, significantly enhancing the Commission's ability to manage and analyse boundary data. An advocate for knowledge sharing, Rev. Djaba has mentored surveyors and professionals in modern surveying methods, fostering capacity building across multiple sectors. His work has been instrumental in shaping geospatial data frameworks for efficient decision-making and strategic planning.



Mr John Tsotorvor

Director, Research Department

Mr. John Elikem Tsotorvor is the Director of Research at the Commission. With over 18 years

of experience in the field of Development and more than a decade in the Peace and Security sector, John brings extensive expertise to his role at the Commission. From 2013 to 2022, he worked with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), where he honed his project management skills. He also collaborated closely with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on boundary, peace and security issues. John is passionate about research and has played research roles at different levels. As Director

of Research, he oversees and coordinates all research activities of the Commission including providing technical and administrative leadership in research for the achievement of the objectives of the Commission, formulation of research themes and supervising the development and publication of literature related to international boundaries. He has led his team to undertake field and human security research in border communities of Ghana as well as published papers on key issues relating international boundary management and governance.



Mrs Patricia Mensah-Larkai

Director, Administration Department

Mrs. Patricia Dzifa Mensah-Larkai is the Director of Administration at the Commission, where she oversees and coordinating and supervising the Administration

and Human Resource needs of the Commission. an astute Administration and Human Resource Practitioner with a demonstrated wealth of experience in managing and building teams in both governmental and multinational work cultures, Patricia holds an Executive MBA in Entrepreneurial Management from the University of Ghana Business School, a BA (Hons) degree in Management and Sociology from the University of Ghana - Legon, a Diploma in French Language from the Alliance Française d'Accra and other certification programmes/ short courses in her field. She is a full member of the Institute of Directors Ghana (IoD-Ghana), as well as a full certified member of the Chartered Institute of

Human Resources Managers (CIHRM Ghana) and the Institute of Public Relations Ghana. She holds students membership with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators UK & Nigeria, as well as the Project Management Institute UK & Ghana. Patricia is an LLB Candidate with the MountCrest University College. As a leadership advocate, especially for women and girls, she became the First Female Distinguished Toastmaster in Ghana, empowering several men and women to sharpen their public speaking and leadership skills. Her strengths include strategic leadership, general office administration, human resource planning, performance management and policy drive & implementation to achieve the objectives of the organisation.





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