

**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST**

**PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PEACE,  
SECURITY AND RESOURCE GOVERNANCE IN THE UPPER WEST  
REGION**

**GEORGE AMUSAH ANKO-BIL**

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SECURITY AND RESOURCE GOVERNANCE IN THE UPPER WEST  
REGION

BY

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GOVERNANCE, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT

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## **DECLARATION**

### **Candidate's Declaration**

I hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own original work and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in this university or elsewhere.

Candidate's Signature:..... Date:.....

Name: George Amusah Anko-Bil

### **Supervisor's Declaration**

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of the dissertation were supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of dissertation laid down by the University of Cape Coast.

Supervisor's Signature:..... Date:.....

Name: Drs. N.K.T. Ghartey

## **ABSTRACT**

The study focused on the prospect for and challenges to sustainable development in the Upper West Region. The issues examined related to sustainable development, peace, enhanced security and resource governance.

A survey design was used in collecting data from 164 respondents comprising security officers, farmers, chiefs, opinion leaders, CBOs and NGOs to ascertain their views on the subject matter. Questionnaires were used to collect primary data from the identifiable stake holders and security personnel. Secondary data were collected from district assemblies' documents and police records. The data were analysed with the Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) version 12 software and presented in tables and charts.

The main conclusions are that access to social services, infrastructural and other socio-economic services are low. Many of the residents, except farmers, were aware of the need to protect water bodies. However, chieftaincy disputes and little direct involvement of the community in policing decisions inhibited trust building between the police and the public. It was thus recommended that policy makers should consider making investments in civil education on environmental protection and employment generation for the youth of the region. The security services, especially the police, should emphasise the community policy as a way of building trust for peace and sustainable development.

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## **DEDICATION**

To my entire family, especially Latifa with the twins, 'Junior' George and 'Sister' Georgina and Godiva Nansong.

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## ACRONYMS

ACP	Assistant Commissioner of Police
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ASDR	Africa Security Dialogue & Research
CBO	Civil Based Organisation
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	Economic Recovery Programme
FM	Frequency Modulation
GBC	Ghana Broadcasting Corporation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IMF	International Monetary Fund
NAFAC	National Festival of Arts and Culture
NEPAD	New Economic Partnership for Africa Development
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NPP	New Patriotic Party
NRC	National Reconciliation Commission
PRESSPOL	Public Relations Unit of the Police
REGSEC	Regional Security Council
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Background to the study**

Population growth, resource scarcity and the quest to improve the living conditions of the majority of Ghana's population bring to the fore the urgent need to ensure a balance between human needs to improve lifestyles on the one hand, and preservation of natural resources and ecosystems, on which the present and future generations depend, on the other. This balance can largely be achieved through the promotion of sustainable development, peace and security among the Ghanaian populace.

Sustainable development fundamentally means that the economies of the world, including Ghana, should attempt to meet the needs of today's generation without compromising or stealing from future generations (Haas et al; 1992). Understood and pursued, the idea of sustainable development can integrate and harmonize the enormously powerful economic and environmental forces at work in today's Ghana. It is a concept rooted in the recognition of the mutually reinforcing nature of economic and environmental progress. Ecological systems are the very foundation of modern society- in science, in agriculture, in social and economic planning.

In Ghana, concern about the environment has been regarded as a peripheral issue in the context of development. Many have a lackadaisical attitude towards the environment. It is within this misconception that, the concept of sustainable development encounters its fundamental intellectual challenge. According to Wirth (1994), the biggest obstacle to the pursuit of sustainable development is the belief that protecting the environment is antithetical to economic interests. The fact is that, the economy is inextricably tied to the environment and totally dependent upon it.

Conditions for sustainable development include peace, security, good governance, protection of human rights and sound economic management. The basic resources for development are the resources of the physical environment and the human resource base. Human resource development essentially relates to formal education, training and the utilization of human potentials for social and economic progress. Important indices of human resource development generally cited include education, health and nutrition, congenial environment, employment, motivation, political and economic freedom. Africa, and indeed Ghana, has abundance of resources and yet the road to development has been painfully slow due largely to poor management of the factors of production and insecure social milieu.

According to Ball and Fayemi (2004), in Africa, one of the underlying considerations in the agenda of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), is that peace and security be ensured as pre-requisite for sustainable development. As noted by Heads of States, Africa faces grave challenges and the



most urgent of these are the eradication of poverty and the fostering of socio-economic development, in particular, through democracy and good governance. It is towards the attainment of these twin objectives that the NEPAD process is principally directed (African Union, 2001). As such, NEPAD identifies the need to strengthen existing conflict prevention mechanisms in the region and thus outlines the following four key areas in which sub-regional institutions will require to focus:

- Prevention, management, and the resolution of conflicts
- Peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace enforcement
- Post conflict reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction
- Combating the illicit proliferation of small arms, light weapons and landmines.

According to the NEPAD Programme of Action it is now generally acknowledged, that development is impossible in the absence of democracy, respect for human rights, peace and good governance (Ball and Fayemi (2004). With NEPAD, Africa undertakes to respect global standards of democracy, which core components include political pluralism, allowing for the existence of several political parties and workers' unions, free, fair, and open democratic elections periodically organised to enable the populace choose their leaders freely.

Peace is essential to the sustenance of development. Its importance is only realized when its absence is felt. Indeed certain aspects of the issues of peace and security bear directly upon the concept of sustainable development and are central to it. In Rwanda for example, the unspeakably brutal massacres of recent years

occurred against a backdrop of soaring population growth, environmental degradation, and unequal distribution of resources. Rwanda's fertility rate was among the highest in the world hovering around 8.0 in the 1990s (ADB, 2007). The nation's once rich agricultural land was so severely depleted and degraded that between 1980 and 1990, during a time of unprecedented population growth, food production fell by 20% (Wirth, 1994). That is why some threats to peace and security (i.e. poverty, diseases, hunger, ignorance and social conflicts) need to be tackled with all available measures.

This art or process of employing and deploying resources to prevent any form of interference to peace and safety of persons and properties in the society could be seen at the individual personal level or at the bigger national level. State security incorporates individual security, enhances human rights and strengthens human development. It protects communities against a broad range of threats to their survival and empowers them to act on their own behalf. Thus the concept concerns the human elements of development (Ball and Fayemi, 2004). The human aspect also encompasses the society with their tradition and culture. Indeed, these are the basis of the human development components which are also interdependent, with education as the foundation. Education is an essential factor in health and nutrition, for maintaining a high-quality environment, for expanding and improving labour pools, and for sustaining political and economic responsibility. This explains why all countries in the world place major emphasis on educational policy in designing their plans for accelerating development. The recognition of education as the key to socio-economic development has motivated

governments to devote substantial proportions of resources to the provision and expansion of education (Ghana Statistical Service, 2005).

### **Profile of the Northern Regions of Ghana**

Several decades after Ghana's Independence, the northern regions of the country still lag behind the rest of the country, as various indicators show. Poverty is endemic and the vagaries of the weather still pose perennial difficulties for the people and their livelihood systems. Literacy statistics are still depressing, especially for women, and severe youth unemployment is a perceived source of instability and insecurity in many Northern communities (Awedoba, 2007). The northern communities (significantly known as the Northern Territories in the colonial era), had their destiny largely shaped by the colonial masters. The area was the exporter of labour to the mines and cocoa plantations that made the wealth of the south at all possible' (Lentz, 2006 pg141). As noted several decades later by the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) report, the British colonial policy discriminated between the North and the south in terms of economic development and the provision of social amenities. Consequently, the absence of economic opportunities coupled with extreme poverty, led the young men of the North to migrate down South for work. This official labour recruitment policy was also underpinned by the belief that men from the Northern Territories were hard-working (Republic of Ghana, 2004).

This phenomenon of southward migration had devastating consequences for social cohesion and community development. In the need to preserve the north

as a reservoir of cheap and unskilled labour, a conscious policy not to encourage literacy by the provision of educational institutions has evolved. There were thus very few educational institutions in the North that offered education beyond Primary School level and consequently, very few well-educated people were produced. Indeed at the dawn of Independence, the development of the Northern Territories and equitable treatment of persons of northern origin became a major source of agitation (Republic of Ghana, 2004). According to Awedoba (2007), economic and social deprivation engenders despondency and desperation, and inevitably calls for coping and survival strategies of various kinds. It also makes the poor resentful of the property-owning sectors while at the same time makes them amenable to their influence and control.

The Upper West Region can also be said to be basically a society in which the people are soaked in their tradition and culture. Nevertheless, the region is not isolated from the general social trends in the country as a whole. The break-down of law and order is not only widespread, but serious and increasingly affecting all sectors of the moral fibre of society. Even the traditional system has had its fair share of external influences across the country. Chieftaincy disputes at various locations in the country range from land boundaries to ascendance to stools and skins. Crime trends are not healthy whilst the indiscipline on our roads poses serious threat to life. And as if that is not enough, some of the citizenry have thrown the due process of the law to the “winds” and now readily take the law into their hands and mete out ‘instance justice’ to crime suspects. Commenting on the situation, Attafuah (2008) notes that instant justice renders human life

uncertain and precarious, taking the society perilously close to the state of nature described by Thomas Hobbes as “nasty, brutish and short”. Continuing Attafuah contends that, it depicts the Ghanaian society to the rest of the world as both primitive and barbaric. Sustainable development cannot thrive in a hostile environment, whether it is physical in the form of the natural resources or whether social, in the form of human relations. The statutory organizations that are entrusted by the 1992 Constitution of Ghana to undertake series of activities and programmes with the view to providing general security and safety to all are the state security agencies. These agencies are made up of the Police Service, the Prison, Immigration, Fire and the Custom, Excise and Preventive Services. The major support base to these, the security sector, is the military which is purposefully set up for the defence of the territorial integrity of the state; especially against external aggression.

### **Statement of the problem**

When the Upper West Region was established in 1983, it was the belief that development would be accelerated in terms of the administration, resource allocations and improvement of infrastructure in that part of the erstwhile Upper Region. More than two decades after its creation, the region still appears to lag behind other regions in several aspects of development (i.e. education, health and security). The region is basically rural, poor and deprived. The main occupation of the people is subsistence farming in a largely dry savannah zone. Perennial bush fires have helped to impoverish the soil, thus producing poor yields.

The state of security in the region is marked by conflicts ranging from chieftaincy disputes, land litigations, religious intolerance, to crimes such as murder and armed robbery. In 2006, for example, there were 17 pending chieftaincy disputes (Awedoba, 2007) and, inherent in these disputes are struggles for the control of land and other natural resources. Crime trends have generally been on the ascendancy. The security situation has, in fact, been a matter of great concern as scarce resources are diverted to the maintenance of peace in various conflict zones arising from land and chieftaincy disputes, as well as ethnic and religious intolerance. Other new crime trends in the region include human trafficking, child labour, illegal mining, drug (especially 'Indian hemp') trafficking and illegal manufacture and sale of small arms. Some obsolete cultural practices such as widowhood rites, gender discrimination and other abuses of human rights, are a hindrance to development.

The effect of continuing underdevelopment in the region compared with the rest of the other sister regions reinforces growing political unease similar to the one that erupted into various recent civil conflicts in Africa. But, there cannot be any meaningful development in the midst of insecurity. This study is therefore an attempt at highlighting the problems and prospects relating to the promotion of peace, sustainable development (including resource governance) and security in a region marked by uncertainties in those regards.

## **Objectives of the study**

The overall objective of the study is to examine the problems and prospects in promoting sustainable development, peace, enhanced security and resource governance for accelerated development of the Upper West Region.

The specific objectives are to:

- Assess the perception of stakeholders on the state of sustainable development and security in the region.
- Examine the relationship between the Police (a major security apparatus) and stakeholders in the context of promotion of peace and security.
- Evaluate how the security of the region is threatened by human and environmental issues.
- Identify the challenges to sustainable development, resource governance and enhanced security.
- Make recommendations towards the promotion of sustainable development through enhanced security and resource governance in the region.

## **Research questions**

The questions that derive from the research objectives and guided the study include the following:

- What is the perception of stakeholders of the state of sustainable development, resource governance and security?

- What relationships exist among the Police (the major security player), traditional authorities and the citizenry in the Upper West District in promoting sustainable development and security in the Region?
- To what extent do human and environmental issues threaten the development, peace and security of the Upper West Region?
- What are the challenges to sustainable development, resource governance and security?

### **Delimitation**

The study was confined to the Municipal/District capitals and not every town of the region. Even though the sampling was based on the Local Government administrative boundaries they were by no means equal and evenly endowed.

### **Significance of the study**

The Upper West Region could be a better region than just trailing all other regions in most aspects of developmental efforts as at present. The potentials, opportunities, constraints and challenges would be examined and with that knowledge, it is expected that development strategies could be adopted to facilitate the much needed impetus to raising the standards of living of the people.

The study through the knowledge established would generate recommendations that could serve as contributory blocks towards the building of further bridges of good relationships that would lead to sustainable livelihoods as



the ultimate measure for promoting peace, security and stability. In this way, crises could be managed before they develop into conflicts. The study advocates for a shift in strategies for pursuing the development agenda of the region so that the majority of the people would lift themselves up from current poverty levels where they can avoid crime or acts that could put them in conflict with the law.

Given the fact that the Ghana Police Service is the major security apparatus in the region, the study should open the way for improving the image of the Service through pragmatic community based activities and actions that would identify with the people's livelihoods and, more significantly, result in the review of Police methods, operations, training and policy. The Upper West Region being the youngest region and basically rural, would afford the appropriate atmosphere as a laboratory for interventions, and thus could generate findings that could be useful elsewhere in similar situations.

Lastly, this study, which appears to be a pioneer in the region on security and development, is significant not only because of its adding to existing knowledge but also because of the fact that it was undertaken by a serving service commander who was not only at the helm of affairs during the research but is also a concerned indigene of 'northern Ghana'. This is another indication of the human resource capability of modern policing in Ghana.

### **Limitations**

Owing to limited financial, material and time resources, the sample is small in relation to the population. It was not practicable to reach all the members

of the sample and this could affect the overall findings. Another limitation was lack of co-operation from some respondents, the total number of respondents interviewed is smaller than anticipated, and the quality of their responses due to 'the stranger' factor might affect the research findings. Indeed, not all questionnaires were retrieved, and in some of the collected ones, not all the questions were answered.

For this and other reasons, the size of sample in this study cannot be used to make generalization about the population. Despite attempts by this researcher to remain anonymous in the field in order to obtain objective responses, there were indications of exaggerations in some of the responses. Some people do not easily accept strangers (especially law enforcers) and thus were economical with the truth in their answers, a situation which was obvious to the researcher, a former resident in the study area. Indigenes of the area fear the adverse use of the information against them or their kinsmen. Even service personnel were guilty of this perception.

### **Organisation of the study**

The study was organised as follows: Chapter One deals with the background to the study, the problem statement, objectives and research questions. Chapter Two presents a review of relevant literature on promoting sustainable development and security in Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. Chapter Three describes how the study was conducted and data collected and analysed. Chapter Four presents results and discussion on promoting sustainable

development and security. Chapter Five summaries the findings, draws conclusions and makes recommendations to institutions towards promoting sustainable development and security.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **Introduction**

This section is a review of the relevant literature on the concept of sustainable development and security; and issues relevant to these themes. The review is divided into four sections. The first provides definitions to the concepts of sustainable development and security as they relate to this study. The second section reviews literature on the concept of sustainable development in Ghana, Africa and the world at large. The third section reviews literature on the concept of security in the Ghanaian and African context. The fourth and final section introduces a conceptual framework adopted for the study which depicts the relationship between the two concepts, namely, sustainable development and security.

#### **Concept of sustainable development**

Sustainability represents an approach to resource governance which addresses the fundamental concerns of poverty, environment, equality, and democracy (UNCED, 1992). It is, therefore necessary to understand clearly what these concerns mean in terms of human development. The idea was popularized in 1987 by the United Nations Commission on Environment and Development

(UNCED) through the Brundtland Report. That report, titled *Our Common Future*, produced the most widely accepted definition of sustainable development that is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (WCED, 1987pg43). The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED, 1987pg46) recognized sustainable development in essence as "a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations" . According to Ashford (2000) sustainable development refers to achieving economic and social development in ways that do not exhaust a country's natural resources. The concept of sustainable development include preserving the environment for other species as well as for people. Sustainable development thus respects the limited capacity of an ecosystem to absorb the impact of human activities.

### **Alternative views about sustainable development**

Since the Rio 1992 Conference, sustainable development has become part of the vocabulary of governmental, inter-governmental, and non-governmental institutions in practically all languages. Yet, paradoxically, the success in the dissemination of the idea and its institutionalization has contributed to a certain erosion of the meaning of the concept (Clark, 1995). Many mainstream economists, together with some politicians and business leaders, for example,

have rejected sustainable development as the latest buzz-word whose very appeal lies in its vagueness (Redclift, 1992). For some, sustainable development is a utopian concept, for others it is demagoguery, while others continue to consider it to be inherently limited in its applicability to cases of extreme poverty and the corresponding difficulties confronted by a large part of the world's population (Inglehart, 1990).

This reaction to the proliferation of the term is understandable. In many cases, the idea has been misappropriated and misused. According to Raskin et al (2002), opponents may also mistrust the economic implications of sustainable development. The contention here is that after all, the concept of sustainability implies that there is introduction of a host of restrictions on the process of economic growth, based on the trade-offs of issues and factors that would be necessary to address the question of inter and intra generational distribution of resources. Clark (1995), states that the introduction of authoritative sustainable policies may at times have a negative impact on short term profit margins, although with the balance of a longer useful life given to investments.

### **Sustainable development in Ghana**

Ghana is endowed with abundant natural resources which undoubtedly contributed immensely to the country's industrialization after independence. According to Nabila (1992), the extraction of these resources has not been without problems as care was not taken to guard their depletion. He argues that no comprehensive plan exists to identify environmental problems and provide

solutions, nor was there machinery to create environmental consciousness among Ghanaians. Serious environmental problems such as deforestation, soil degradation and industrial pollution persisted.

According to Tetteh (1992), the stark reality of a fast declining economy gave the Ghanaian government no option than to launch the Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) in 1983. This programme of economic policy reforms, calculated to put the Ghanaian economy on a positive growth path, was given financial and technical support by the World Bank and the IMF. A key objective of the ERP was the improvement of Ghana's economic performance by revitalizing agriculture, forestry, mining and the manufacturing industry. Tetteh (1992) has observed that while this led to positive economic growth, it was growth but at a high environmental price: an estimated 41.7 billion cedis or 4% of GDP or US\$128.3 million in 1988 alone.

### **Environmental problems resulting from Ghana's ERP**

According to Anane et al. (1999), agriculture imposed the greatest environmental degradation cost, at 69% or 28.8 billion cedis (US\$88.5 million) in 1998. He further observes that these costs were reflected in wind and water erosion, soil compaction, surface soil crusting and loss of soil stability and fertility, indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticides. While these unsustainable agricultural practices had adverse effects on the environment, they also intensified the poor living conditions of a majority of Ghanaians. Ghana's forests also suffered from the ERP. Adams (1990) noted that forests cover 34% of the country

and contain 2100 plant species and many rare animals. An amazing 95% of Ghana's high forest has already been logged, and only 1% of what is left lies within protected areas such as wildlife sanctuaries, game reserves and sacred groves.

In agriculture, the ERP led to a recovery in the exploitation of forest resources particularly of timber. According to Anane and Oppong (1999), timber earnings increased from 5.9% in 1986 to 13.2% in 1990. But the opportunity cost of this impressive progress was exceedingly high, estimated at 10.8 billion cedis, or US\$33.4 million. This continued depletion of the forest resulted in land degradation, decreasing biodiversity, desertification, and the shrinking of the natural sink for carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.

The mining sector was also heavily rehabilitated during the ERP. As noted by Adams (1990), dust, sulphur dioxide and arsenic trioxide are the major mining-related impacts on air quality in mining areas. Metals such as arsenic and mercury have been discharged into river systems, and the deterioration of water quality has affected resident aquatic organisms. The levels of arsenic and cyanide discharged into the water; which also serves as a source of drinking water for local residents; were higher than those recommended by the World Health Organization (Adams, 1990). He further notes that uncontrolled mining leaves in its trail barren wasteland. Environmental problems always affects the livelihood and security of people and Ghana has been no exception.



## **Security – concepts and issues in Ghana**

One fundamental function of the state is to provide for the security of its citizens and residents. The security sector comprises those State institutions and structures whose primary function is to protect society and the liberty of its citizens. And when this fails, everybody gets apprehensive of the system. On the spate of instant justice in the country, Attafuah (2008) notes it means that our criminal justice system (i.e. the Police, Courts and Prisons) are fragile, incompetent and putrid, and signals a disturbing loss of confidence in our capacity punishing wrong-doing decisively, and in accordance with the rule of law. Other institutions taking care of the national security systems include:

- The Armed Forces
- Law Enforcement Services
- Intelligence Agencies

The security sector in Ghana, like most other States, falls into one of the two broad categories. Generally, matters of internal security falls within the Ministry of Interior, while external security is handled by the Ministry of Defence.

Over the past decade, the global security situation has changed with some old threats fading away and new ones taking their place. This has led to a rethinking of the security situation itself. Security is now increasingly viewed as an all encompassing condition in which people and communities live in freedom, peace and safety, and participate fully in governance (Kumbuor, 2007).

This study would take a peek at both political security and crime, which include the following that are not just only inter-related, but overlapping in concepts:

- International security: Global and between nation-states; in the form of trans-national terrorism and organised crime;
- National security: Within the national geographical boundaries; and
- Human security: Pertaining to human liberties and freedoms, within the context of the rule of law.

Generally, security, peace and stability are preconditions for the well-being and functioning of every society. Basic considerations, assessments and analysis of security risks and challenges are included in strategic documents such as the Defence or Security Policy of a country. Africa and indeed Ghana faces many complex threats and challenges to its security and environment.

Ideally, the government's national objectives should lead to a formulation of defence objectives which in turn, would define the defence policy or even security policy. However, a pre-condition for good governance of the security sector requires a nationally owned security policy. And that the sector should be subject to civil control not civilian control (Kumbuor, 2007). Elaborating, Kumbuor (2007) cites the following:

- Strengthening State Institutions, such as Justice Systems, Armed Forces, Intelligence agencies and the National Police.
- Consolidating control over National Territory including Border Security, Urban Security, Illegal Drugs, and Terrorism.

- Protecting the Rights of Citizens, especially the vulnerable, child abuse, and enforcement of motor /highway regulations.
- Co-operation in the security of all citizens.

On the concept of security, there has been a departure from the traditional definition of security from the military to include the non-military guarantees that provide for the security of every human being. According to Ball and Fayemi (2004), security has taken a step forward to include freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity. The concept of human security – which combines elements of national security, economic development and basic human rights with the objective of protecting people from the fear of violence – which is particularly relevant in Africa. This new paradigm of security changed the traditional idea of state security advocated in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Ball and Fayemi, 2004 pg 2). According to that tradition, the state monopolizes the rights and means to protect its citizens. State power and state security was established and expanded to sustain order and peace. In contemporary times, both the challenges to security and its protectors have become more complex. The state remains the fundamental purveyor of security yet, it often fails to fulfil its security obligations and with time has even become a source of threat to its own people. “That is why attention must now shift from the security of the state to the security of the people -to human security” (Ball and Fayemi 2004 pg 2).

Since the attainment of political independence from British rule on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1957, Ghana has experienced four successful military coups d’etat and numerous attempted coups. All these events have occasioned extensive human

rights violations and abuses. The unconstitutional governments resulting from military coups provide a platform for the serious and sustained violation of the rights of many citizens and foreigners resident in the country. The fundamental human rights and freedoms of many people were also violated or abused during periods of constitutional rule. It is in this context for human security and the quest for achieving healing, peace and national reconciliation that the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) was set up in May 2002.

In a report citing Bahuet of the UNDP office, Accra, Sampson (2006), stressed on a consensus for a greater focus on social and economic development, good governance and democratization, the rule of law and respect for human rights. A network of citizens in both urban and rural areas, in accordance with the principle of solidarity and the duty to contribute to common security, will provide the authorities with information which will help in the prevention of crime and the pursuit of criminals.

According to Mason (2003) in his article 'Colombia's Democratic Security Agenda' democratic security is about strengthening and guaranteeing the rule of law through-out the country, through the reinforcement of democratic authority. That is, through the free exercise of authority by democratic institutions, the effective application of the law and the active participation of the citizen in matters of common interest. The strengthening of the rule of law is the essential pre-requisite to achieving the aim of democratic security; the protection of each and every citizen as per the constitution (Nnoli, 1987).

Furthermore, security is not regarded primarily as the security of the state, nor as the security of the citizen without the assistance of the state. Rather, it is the protection of the citizens and democracy by the state with the solidarity and co-operation of the whole society (McMichel, 1996). The author also notes that, security contributes to the empowerment of the citizens which is nothing less than the realization of the freedom and responsibility implicit in their rights and their equality before the law.

In Ghana, the legal framework on issues of national security is derived from Articles 83 and 84 of the 1992 Constitution; and also from the Security and Intelligence Agencies Act, 1996 (Act 526). This is an Act of Parliament that makes provision for the establishment of a National Security Council, Regional and District Security Councils. The Act also specifies some of the state agencies responsible for implementing government policies on security of the State and attendant issues on or relating to the internal and external security of Ghana and to provide for related matters.

The National Security Council (NSC) is the highest body on security matters in the country and is chaired by the President with the Vice and other cabinet ministers and heads of security institutions as members. The functions of the Council include, considering and taking appropriate measures to safe-guard the internal and external security of Ghana; ensuring the collection of information relating to the security of Ghana and the integration of the domestic, foreign and security policies relating to it so as to enable the security services and other departments and agencies of Government to co-operate more effectively in

matters relating to national security and assessing and appraising the objectives, commitments and risks of Ghana in relation to the actual and potential military power in the interest of national security. There are also the Regional and District Security Councils that perform such functions of the National Security Council in the regions and districts as may be determined. In Ghana, the core security sector actors include the military, the police and the intelligence agencies. According to Kumbuor (2007), the Justice, Legal and investigative institutions are part of this sector. In general the national security of the state:

- connotes sense of ensuring well-being of a country
- implies maintenance of political, economic and social stability
- measures taken to guarantee the safety of the state against and threats (Internal/External).

Before the colonial introduction of the chieftaincy to the Upper West Region of Ghana, Lentz (2006:19) stated that “issues of security and anti social behaviour were punished with sanctions imposed by the ancestors. Adding that, attacks on members of other patrilans however, were not only not punishable, but were considered admirable deeds kept in check only by the fear of violent revenge”.

In modern day Ghana, however, the Upper West Region, has as its major security sector actor, the Ghana Police Service; with its headquarters located at the regional capital Wa. The service has a unified national command with its functions as stated in Act 350/1970, The Ghana Police Service Act, as follows:-

- To prevent and detect crime

- To apprehend offenders
- To maintain order, safety of persons and property.

There are three Police Divisions in the region, comprising several districts with police stations and posts at the lowest hierarchy. These are spread to the remote rural areas to give a sense of security. Indeed, it is the contention of this writer that besides the Ghana Education Service and probably the Agricultural ministry, no other state institution has nationwide presence such as the Police. This in no doubt could be taken as good agents for social change. The military is another force to reckon with not in numbers as the police but by their 'fire power'. A small detachment of Airborne Force based in Tamale in the Northern Region, is stationed at Wa to back-up the police as and when the need arises. Other collaborative security services in the region are the Prisons, Fire, Immigration, the Custom, Excise and Preventive (CEPS).

These institutions are seen to play their security roles most prominently during elections, disasters and conflict periods where their co-ordinated deployment ensures peace and stability for the regions development agenda.

### **Socio-economic and environmental stress as a source of conflict**

There are a number of factors that affect the connection between environmental stress, poverty, and security, such as inadequate development policies (the disparity between the south and the north), adverse trends in the international economy, inadequacies in multi-ethnic societies and pressures of population growth. The real sources of insecurity also encompass unsustainable

development, and its effects can become intertwined with traditional forms of conflict in a manner that can extend and deepen the latter. Meanwhile poverty, injustice, environmental degradation, and conflict interact in complex and potent ways (WCED 1987).

On situations that could compromise peace and security in northern Ghana, Awedoba (2007) is of the view that, for a pittance, youth and others in not too favourable circumstances can be induced to break custom and the law rather than listen to reason. They may indulge in behaviours risky to themselves and their neighbours because there is not much to live for anyway. The outcome may be real - such as death, injury, poisoned social relations, increased poverty as resources are wasted and lost, etc., or perceived - such as spiritual mishaps – punishment by divine beings and agencies for breach of traditional sanctions (Awedoba 2007). These may result directly (as it is perceived) or indirectly, as in death, illness and other misfortune. However, people who indulge in these conflicts do not care about such results.

The APRM Country Review Report on Ghana suggests that the government should pay serious attention to equity issues, particularly with respect to gender and region. North-South disparities should be ameliorated by purposefully pursuing policies that reduce regional disparities in economic growth and development through special development projects or Presidential Initiatives in depressed regions of the country. Further, the Report notes the long-term destabilising political risks, should the disparities persist unabated or deepen (APRM. 2005: 5.89). Other potential sources of conflict in the country's progress



towards democracy and good government pointed out the report include decentralization, land issues and chieftaincy. Culture could also be a fulcrum for sustainable development rather than some of the obnoxious practices such as bush burning, FGM, widowhood rites and depraved acts of the sort witnessed by the author at NAFAC 2005 in Wa (appendix 3). Culture and tradition could and indeed, should blend with development through incorporating indigenous technologies in a sort of combination that is not only culturally acceptable to the people of the area, but also to the nation as a whole within the rule of law.

Awedoba (2007) points out that whichever is the issue, the deprived and marginalised arguably feel they have nothing to lose (life is like being dead and death thus cannot be worse than living) and these sanctions – secular or spiritual - could not perceptibly be worse than one's current unhappy existence.

“Thus, people who are not oblivious to the fact that their claims fly in the face of traditional norms and the canons of justice have nevertheless no fear of the consequences of their unjustified or even sacrilegious behaviours and actions, so long as there is an immediate benefit, however minute, in sight” (p.7).

A former National Security Co-ordinator, noted on Crime and Security that, it is not only armed robberies and other violent crimes alone that constitute a danger to the safety of the people as a whole, and that there are organised and syndicated crimes that affect the people even more dangerously, whether subtle, covert or overt. Elaborating, he contends that

these are crimes that subvert the people's well-being by attacking and undermining socio-economic infrastructure (Quantson, 2008).

### **Chieftaincy problems and security**

The chieftaincy institution in contemporary times, despite its role in local governance, has been observed to be one of the major conflict prone areas in the society. Indeed, the past two decades have witnessed a spate of succession disputes in northern Ghana. Since 1980 there have been (more than) twenty-six succession disputes which have resulted in intra-ethnic conflicts with devastating results (Brukum, 2001). Thus, instead of the chieftaincy and traditional institutions gingering themselves up with the aim of empowerment in the areas of governance to meet the challenges of contemporary national development needs, they rather are logged into protracted litigations that lead to more harm than good to the society in general.

As argued by, S.K. Boafo, the Minister of Culture and Chieftaincy Affairs, chiefs ought to be honoured according to the developmental programmes and projects that they are able to attract to their areas; adding that his ministry would institute awards for such chiefs to motivate others. He was incidentally speaking at a function of the Ga Mantse selection to a successor, which in itself was an issue of litigation (Osabutey, 2007). The resultant consequences of disputes are that the cost of peace-keeping and the maintenance of law and order, in crisis-stricken areas are not only a huge drain on the national economy but also a burden on our human and material resources.

The Dagbon crisis raging for a period of four years (2002-06), took a heavy toll on the nation. Statistics reported by some of the national newspapers put the figure as many as 300 chieftaincy cases lined up before the various Houses of Chiefs. It is generally believed that the noble institution is reeling under the weight of interminable succession disputes because non-royals are using their wealth and connections to influence kingmakers to nominate them as chiefs. There are yet others who, though not royals, have appointed themselves kingmakers-‘chieftaincy contractors’ and who by dint of their wealth try to install persons and hire the youth to fight when they fail in their bid (Osabutey, 2007). Perhaps, this has been due to the fact that there are no ‘real’ rules of succession hence the pattern of succession and the selection process has kept on changing. Another reason may be the prestige and various remunerations now attached to that office since politicians and aspirants to political offices frequently woo and rely on chiefs to either get elected or re-elected to political office (Brukum, 2001).

The Upper West seems to have conflict cases that can correctly be described as replay of past events and contestations. This region is not known for an entrenched tradition of chieftaincy, since with a few exceptions most present day chieftaincies do not predate the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; some were in fact colonial creations, and that is perhaps the crux of the issue. Just as the British created chieftaincies they were also responsible in some cases for the removal of chiefs who did not meet their expectations as agents for indirect rule; such chieftaincies therefore lacked ritual and traditional legitimacy in the eyes of the people (Awedoba 2007).

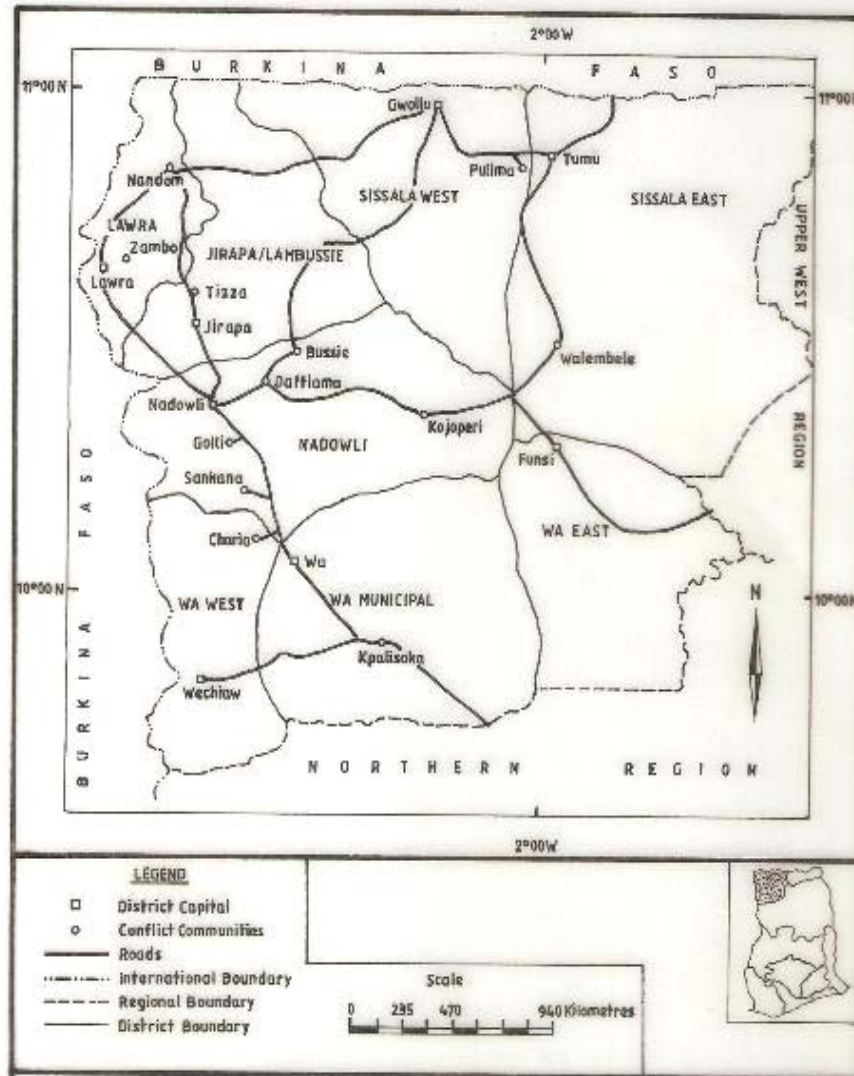
Awedoba (2007) notes that the roots of conflicts in the Upper West Region started in the early years of the Ghana's post independence when the then government meddled in chieftaincy affairs following the colonial example of deposing chiefs who did not support the regime of the day and creating new chiefs in their place. In the case of the post-Independence governments, the difference however was that one regime would depose a chief who was out of favour and replace him with a sympathizer of the regime, only for that decision to be overturned and the removed chief restored while his replacement is sent into limbo. This kind of musical chairs seemed to imply that a chief removed by an unfriendly government was merely being sent to the store to cool off for a while. His faction did not therefore withdraw its support, nor did his relatives consider that they had lost any rights to the skin (Awedoba, 2007).

It would seem that until recently chieftaincy disputes only erupted with a change of government and are fuelled by the expectation that the new government would be more favourably disposed to the cause of the faction that the old government did not favour. The introduction of the 1992 Constitution seems to change all this as it became clear that governments have lost the power to depose and re-impose chiefs (Lentz, 2006). This nevertheless, has not changed the system much. Indeed, the political factor has rather assumed a subtle nature, now that the economic benefits of chieftaincy have increased. However, with the withdrawal of government, chieftaincy factions are now more assertive in taking their destinies into their own hands and seeking redress where they can find it. This has implied revisiting old cases where the opportunity seems to have presented itself.

On the state of chieftaincy conflicts in the region presently, it is noted that, there are 17 paramountcies in the Upper West Region and there are also 17 chieftaincy disputes pending at the Judicial Committees of the Upper West Regional House of chiefs. Of these paramountcies, five are vacant and wrought with petitions (Awedoba, 2007). Of these, the Nandom chieftaincy [dispute] was allegedly patched up at the 2006 Kakube Festival, but the forced ejection of Wellembelle Kuoro by his subjects and the preferment of destoolment charges is now at the House of Chiefs. Almost every district in the Upper West has at least one pending chieftaincy dispute. Although many disputes are pending at the judicial committee level, the absence of traditional leadership at that high level is itself a hindrance to the resolution of chieftaincy and other disputes at the lower level. Some of the cases are so old, e.g. the Tizza case, that crucial witnesses may be dead by the time that the cases are considered (Awedoba, 2007).

The disputes researched into in this region, according to the Northern Sustainable Peace Initiative, (2007), were essentially about chieftaincy succession and were occasioned mostly when a vacancy was created by the death of an incumbent chief and the inability of the community to agree on who should step into the vacancy created. In these societies there is no institutionalised heir-apparent arrangement. At the same time there could be many eligible persons expecting to assume the vacant office. In some cases a successor may have been foisted on the community by one constituency or faction, rather than by the community or its representatives acting in concert. This is the likely scenario in

the communities that attempt to apply a rotation principle based on what are called 'gates' (Awedoba 2007).



**Figure 1: Map of the Upper West Region showing conflict areas**

Source: Cartographic Department, UCC, 2007

As already noted, governments of the day, since colonial times, have not made matters any better by promoting their favourites at the expense of those who either did not support the government of the day or were not perceived to be competent. Where this has happened, the *de facto* chief lacks full legitimacy and the resentment would linger and simmer for a while. An open challenge and confrontation might ensue when the incumbent's government has been replaced by what appears to be a more friendly government or when the sitting chief has exhausted any remaining goodwill within the community. It seems that these days it is only too easy to question any chief's legitimacy. The basis of contestations could be any of the following (Awedoba. 2007):

- The Gate of the incumbent and his family history: questions asked for which no answers can be advanced that satisfy all could be any of the following
- The turn of the Gate from which the incumbent hails
- The processes of selection and installation of the incumbent:
- The character of the incumbent; the 'youth' may wish to remove the sitting chief from office because he has played favourites or has exhibited biases in his decisions or judgements.

The seeds of conflict seem to underlie most chieftaincy positions in the Region and few chiefs have large sectors of the community behind them. In many cases, opposition or rebellion lurks behind the corner.

## **Police – public relations**

Rakgoadi (1995) has noted that a radical shift in the mind-set as well as the transformation of the police institution by a more humane and people-oriented police service is required. Such working partnership between the police and the community to prevent crime, arrest offenders, find solutions to recurring problems and to enhance the quality of life of the community (Rakgoadi, 1995).

For the WHO, community participation is the process by which individuals and families assume responsibility for their own health and welfare and for that of the community, and develop the capacity to contribute to their and the community's development. They come to know their situation better and are motivated to solve their common problems. This enables them to become agents of their own development instead of passive beneficiaries of development aid (WHO, 1978, cited in Rufkin, 1986).

National development and the character of governments are inextricably intertwined, and the latter may be as important to consider as the former. So it is also necessary to ask whether the nature of specific regimes has a formative effect on police systems. Potentially powerful coercive bodies become key resources for influential elites who are able to shape them through the controls exerted by organization (such as a centralization of command) and access to political power (Hill, 1996). The nature of policing changes when that of politics does given the close ties between the two. As has been stressed, the police are not neutral and, to paraphrase Potholm (1969), they have many roles in the African context.



According to Potholm (1969), policing should be made more functional especially in deprived communities. By adapting police methods that are relevant to the community the service could win the understanding and the co-operation of it publics. For northern Ghana, including the study area, the issue of conflict cannot be over-emphasized. Thus as per one of the key themes of Mole V, 'to examine some of the mechanisms that support conflict management in Northern Ghana' would be most relevant to the people in their understanding of security. Crime and the means to control it are enduring problems for police forces and communities all over the world. In the 1980s, the idea that the key to controlling crime was to involve police and communities in collaborative projects, dubbed 'community policing', gathered ground in North America and Europe. More recently the concept of community policing has been transplanted to Africa, as part of a package of measures ostensibly designed to improve security in contexts where crime is perceived to be out of control (Ruteere and Pommerolle, 2003).

From the author's own experience as a Regional Police Commander, people's perception of law enforcement and the application of the law is that it is sometimes 'harsh'. Citing instances of the poor rural dweller being expected to know the law; and should they falter; "ignorance of the law is no excuse". In handling the security situation in the Upper West Region, one may be tempted to tamper justice with mercy by enforcing the law with some flexibility. This could be an opportunity to open dialogue instead of confrontation; for a more humane approach to handling persons that may 'unknowingly' fall foul of the law. Indeed, one of the peculiar issues here is culture/tradition coming face to face with the

law. Even though there is the need to abolish obsolete cultural practices, it should be done in a manner that would involve and encourage the people's participation. Community policing is therefore another attempt by the police to draw the people's participation in security, especially through education on the rule of law. This would include non-interference in the application and the enforcement of the criminal justice system. This is especially in the study area in particular and the country as a whole, where patronage, interventions, intercessions and interferences have become disturbing features.

Over the years in this country, several committees of enquires setup variously by different regimes to make the police more responsive to the people has injected some positive reforms except that, these do not meet the full desire for an overhauled system by persons calling for a total transformation.

### **Security, peace and sustainable development**

With the end of the Cold War, the pursuit of lasting peace and an end to conflict has become, together with sustainable development, a global imperative. While the link between development and peace has been frequently examined, the results of its examination remain largely inconclusive. Although it might appear intuitive that meeting the basic needs of poor communities holds the promise of eliminating many of the types of situations which favour the outbreak of conflict, in many cases development can be shown to contribute to or benefit from the existence or possibility of armed conflicts. The concept of sustainable development modifies this relationship considerably. In other words, the idea of

peace forms an integral part of the idea of sustainable development. Presently, these two concepts are likely to become inseparable. To understand the events of the next fifty years, then, one must understand environmental scarcity, cultural and racial clash, geographic destiny, and the transformation of war (Kaplan, 1995).

The next discussion reviews some of the principal causes of conflict (that is, the lack of peace). Whether we consider isolated episodes, or whether the broader question of peace, security and war as part of a historical process is examined, many of the primary causes of conflict are closely related to the question of sustainable development, or better stated, unsustainable development. It is generally accepted that examples of current global trends which present formidable challenges to the achievement of both peace (security) and sustainability include: the problem of population growth above the carrying capacity of the known natural resource base and the predominant technology, mounting pressure on diminishing quantities of fresh water and topsoil, disputed jurisdiction over territorial areas containing strategic resources, the destabilizing impact of widespread poverty and increasing social inequality, and a rising flow of migrants fleeing war, famine, and other vestiges of political, social, and economic breakdown.

The evidence on this issue is unequivocal. The lack of peace, that is, a situation of war or conflict, drains away resources that otherwise might be applied (although not necessarily) to promote the well-being of a nation's citizens. In addition, armed conflicts destroy natural resources, infrastructure, and human

lives. The establishment of peace permits the recuperation of stable conditions for development and liberates resources for needed investments, although it does not ensure in and of itself that the resulting development will be sustainable. As has been noted by WCED (1987:290), "certain aspects of the issues of peace and security bear directly upon the concept of sustainable development. Indeed, they are central to it".

According to Homer-Dixon, Boutwell & Rathjens (1993:29)

“Renewable resource scarcities of the next 50 years will probably occur with a speed, complexity and magnitude unprecedented in history”. It also been acknowledged that issues of scarcities of renewable resources often produce insidious and cumulative social effects, such as population displacement and economic disruption. These events can, in turn, lead to clashes between ethnic groups as well as to civil strife and insurgency. A safe and secured environment there is a necessary condition for sustainable, poverty-reducing development”.

Sustainable development, if achieved, contributes decisively to the dissipation, if not the elimination, of several of the primary causes of conflict. If a sustainable development strategy has been successful in terms of the reduction of poverty, the levelling of social inequalities and the optimum allocation of scarce resources, then certainly many of the situations that exacerbate conflict between different groups, communities, and nationalities will be avoided (Homer-Dixon,

1993). Improving the conditions for social justice in particular is fundamental to the promotion of peace in a variety of contexts throughout the world.

There are many ways in which sustainable development can lead to a situation of stability, security, and peace. Sustainable development, if comprehensive, represents a multi-disciplinary idea which acts not just economically, nor solely ecologically, not only politically, but on all of these fronts (Haas et al, 1992). Beyond this, sustainable development has implications for improvement of the institutional structure. Rockefeller (1996) observed that, the modification or reform of institutions for the purpose of resolving potentially contentious situations democratically lies at the heart of the idea of sustainability.

According to Rockefeller (1996), the dispute over water rights at one level or another, represents one of the principal causes of real or potential conflict in many different parts of the world. There are some who say that the great war of the next century could arise from a struggle for the control of fresh water, a resource increasingly under pressure from demographic expansion and economic activities. Experiences of sustainable development in the area of management of supply and consumption of water have led to the creation of mechanisms which aid users to define the norms for allocation, use, and transfer of water rights in a democratic process. In practice, this democratic process of resource allocation replaces previously existing conflict. At the local level, the gun has been replaced by meetings between neighbours or committees who must learn to share a watershed. On a macro level, international accords and committees can serve as substitutes for wars.

Paris and Kates (2003) compare the situation of Europe after World War I to the circumstances which followed World War II. In the first case, the post-war negotiation strategy of the victorious nations attempted to further cripple the vanquished by exacting a high price in the form of restitution. After the Second World War, the victorious allies sought first and foremost the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Europe. While in 1918-19 the conditions for the renewal of bitter conflict were established, so in 1947 the foundations for the construction of a peaceful and sustainable Europe were laid. According the author, many other examples, positive and negative, can be discussed, from the experiences of Europe and the Americas, to those from the Middle East, from Asia, and from Africa.

Another important issue is the rising pressure from the migration of poor populations fleeing from areas of low carrying capacity and economic underdevelopment. Such migrations throw host societies into disequilibrium as the hosts attempt to assimilate the displaced population. This situation often leads to conflict, as can be seen in Europe with the African immigrant community and in the United States with the migrations from Mexico and Central America (Brecher et al, 2000). According to the authors, by raising the carrying capacity of the countries of origin, sustainable development strategies can offer an effective solution, reducing over time the causes of such migrations which represent today one of the principal potential causes of conflict between the North and the South.

The motivations behind the deliberate exercise of social control are many and complex and are not always compatible with Young's noble objectives. The

means employed vary with the cultural setting of various groups. But invariably, they consist in institutional and non-institutional measure directed at teaching, persuasion or coercion. Coercion, the ultimate measure applicable in social control, involves the use of physical force or violence by the police or other legitimate law enforcement agencies to bring about conformity (Abotchie, 1997).

In Ghana the concern of the security experts is that there is total laxity in observing the regulations on arms and ammunition dealers. The situation has resulted in the proliferation of arms. The spate of violent crimes such as armed robberies, murders and other criminal activities in the area is certainly the product of this laxity. Much of the conflicts (chieftaincy, land, religious and ethnic) in the north, especially those of Yendi and Bawku are fuelled by such illicit arms trade. It is therefore no surprise that all Executive Legislature on the Curfews in these trouble spots end with a warning of the ban of weapons in the area. According to Aning (2007) there are at least 220,000 small arms in civilian hands in Ghana. Of these, at least 125,000 are illicit weapons, and only 95,000 are currently registered.

### **Towards security, resource governance and development**

According to Bass (2007), there are three processes which are necessary to achieve peace in African states that are ravaged by continuous acts of violence and also to lay the foundation for rethinking development in Africa. They are: disarmament, economic reconstruction, and peace talks. Himmelstrand (1994) reminds us that development theory should take into account the specific context

and history of African societies. Thus the suggestions stated below are no panacea for every African country but rather as framework for dealing with development and security.

These three processes are some of the preconditions for economic growth and development for the following five reasons. Firstly, Martinussen (2004) states that economic activity can be a source of conflict. This is exemplified by Chingono (1996) in the conflict economy in Mozambique. Secondly, Sen (1999) observes that substantive freedom means that civil society, states and markets should co-operate to support citizens of developing countries to participate in economic activity. That means in the post-conflict governments should channel resources to productive and developmental capital to boost the reconstruction of its war torn economy. This process could emulate or learn from such mechanisms from the Marshall Plan after the destruction of Western Europe economies in World War II. A particularly important lesson that could be learnt is the role of the state in rebuilding industries that were the driving engines of the economy before the war. According to Bass (2007), this calls for African governments to overlook the Cold War ideological underpinnings of the Marshall Plan and rather learn the economic validity of the plan in the context of redressing poverty and promoting human development.

Ghana faces a significant challenge in development, although it has made remarkable strides towards consolidating democratic growth in recent years, with successive and successful national elections. Bass (2007) notes that the rapid pace of development has led to numerous local tensions over land, resources, and



chieftaincy successions, especially where traditional groups and communities have grappled with modern politics and jurisprudence. While the chieftaincy system has served as a mainstay for social cohesion in Ghana even in modern times, the politicization of some aspects of the system has contributed to these tensions. In the recent past, an absence of new mechanisms to complement traditional means of managing these tensions has led to violent conflicts.

As has been observed by Bass (2007), one of the longest-lasting violent conflicts has afflicted the Dagbon traditional area of the Northern Region where each of the two major clans claims affiliation to different and opposing national political parties. In 2003, the traditional ruler of the area and a number of his followers were killed. Law enforcement agencies provided only a tepid response. Perceptions by the aggrieved clan of national authorities' ineptitude or compliance significantly ratcheted political tensions at the national level (Bass, 2007).

An editorial on the northern conflict entitled '*Dialogue, and the way forward*' in the 'Daily Graphic' stated that "while these conflicts have usually been confined to the northern parts of the country, they have development implications not only for northern Ghana but the rest of the country as well. Many Ghanaians have found cause to complain about the poor standards of living in the three northern regions and have urged the government to commit more resources to develop that part of the country" ('Daily Graphic'. Wednesday, November 28, 2007). There is the general concern about the state of underdevelopment in the

three northern regions and alarm of the recurring violence, a situation which will only exacerbate the already poor living conditions of the people.

Given the situation in the north, it is not hard to see the people's over-dependence on the central government for virtually all their developmental needs. Save interventions of some NGOs and the religious bodies, the people appear pre-occupied in protracted and 'irrelevant' conflicts to the detriment of their own development. The folks would have to take their own initiatives to improve their lives and this would demand that they purge and reform their mindset about the state and perhaps adopt a reformulation of the former U S President Kennedy's famous slogan of 'ask not what Ghana can do for me, but what I can do for the nation and myself.

Perhaps, this is the opportune time of hope for the Upper West Region, where resource governance could take into account the potentials of the area with a view of meeting not only the needs of the present but without compromising the future generations to meeting their needs too. In this regard, land use should receive the necessary legal framework that would reduce, if not completely eliminate the several disputes that virtually degenerate into conflicts. These lands whether for domestic or commercial use should be in conformity with the over-all interest of the society. At the local level the Local Government Act, Act 462 should ensure the decentralisation concept geared towards development at the grass roots with the native very much involved and concerned about their own welfare. The Upper West Region for instance, is now witnessing increasing activities of small scale illegal mining, popularly known as 'galamsey', and it

would not be out of place for the EPA (Environment Protection Agency) in the region to be empowered enough to live up to its statutory role. The EPA was setup in 1974, as a national body to oversee all activities and efforts aimed at protecting and improving the quality of the environment (Wheeler, 1997). It is within these context that all institutions, formal or in formal come into play with the security sector maintaining and enforcing all necessary legislations. The role of leadership whether traditional or government system must be an integral part of the development of the area. This action was contingent on the theory that local areas are best managed by local people (Ayee, 1998).

The Dagbon situation, (just as the current Bawku crisis) threatened to create instability and violence during the national elections of December 2004; prompting, the UN system to deploy a 'peace and governance' programme in Ghana earlier in the year as a precaution. The short-term objective was to assist national and local actors to implement confidence-building measures in the troubled Northern region in advance of national elections. The longer-term objective was to help build systematic national capacities for managing similar tensions throughout Ghana. As noted by Kendie and Guri (2004), the Ghanaian society is undergoing a lot of social change. The formal system of government has introduced other institutions into the body fabric of the society. Hence, both the traditional and the formal system of governance do co-exist, competing for allegiance and control.

The security sector can make a positive contribution to development in Africa by providing a secured environment in institutions. It should also conform

to democratic guidelines and in which they remain under democratic control, while adhering to the principles of security in democracy. As observed in the UN (INTERPOL TASK FORCE, 1996) democratic societies should have a police system that would serve to protect, rather than impede, freedoms. And stressing that, the very purpose of the police is to provide a safe, orderly environment in which these freedoms can be exercised. A democratic police force is not concerned with people's beliefs or associates, their movements or conformity to state ideology. It is not even primarily concern with the enforcement of regulations or bureaucratic regimens. Instead, the police force of a democracy is concerned strictly with the preservation of safe communities and the application of criminal law equally to all people, without fear or favour (UN International Police Task Force, 1996).

## **Conclusion**

This chapter basically tried to show the intrinsic link between security and development, and also take the provision of security to include meeting the basic human needs of the population. The effect of development on the environment was also looked at while the latter's misuse or abuse in the areas of agriculture and mining noted. Major conflicts in the area were seen to be predominately of chieftaincy, land and to a lesser degree religious; draining resources for peace keeping instead of the much needed infrastructure for development. Resource governance in both physical environment and human resource management in sustainable development of the study area cannot be over emphasised.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **Introduction**

The chapter presents details of how the study was conducted. It focuses on the research design, the study population, the selection of the sample of respondents and how data were collected and analyzed. It also contains information about the research setting and provides justifications for the choice of such setting.

#### **Study area**

The Upper West Region of Ghana is the area of study. The region was established on January 14, 1983 and is located at the north-western corner of Ghana and bordered on the south and south-east by the Northern Region, to the north-east by the Upper East Region and to the south-west by the Republic of Burkina Faso. It covers a land area of 8,476 sq. kms, about 12.7% of the total land area of Ghana. Ghana Statistical Service (GSS, 2002) gave the population of the region in 2000 as 576,583 made up of 276,445 males and 300,138 females. In 2006, the population was estimated to be 638,498 representing 3% of the national population. The population density is about 34 persons per sq.km. Also according to the GSS, 2002, at the regional level, the highest illiteracy levels are found in

the three northern regions of Ghana (76.2% for Northern, 76.5% for Upper East and 73.4% for Upper West).



Figure 2: Political Map of Ghana

Source: [www.mapsofworld.com](http://www.mapsofworld.com), 2009

The choice of the Upper West Region for the study is based on a critical set of factors that include the following:

- The Upper West is the least developed of the three northern regions of Ghana. As a result, it has a much larger rural-based economy than any other region in Ghana. Therefore, starting from this much lower level of economic development, any given socioeconomic innovation would most likely register significant improvements in livelihoods than if the same intervention were applied in much developed regions.
- The linguistic variety is minimal, within the total regional population projected at 638,498 (2006). Therefore, there could be fewer complications in administering the set of questionnaires that would be used in this study.
- Addressing the problem of economic backwardness, using the least developed region with such a manageable population as the forum, would produce some recommendations that could be adapted for any of the other regions of the nation.
- Whatever administrative policies that positively address problems of socioeconomic backwardness would have catalytic effects in the enhancement of national cohesion in a manner that can help Ghana avoid sliding by default into the political and economic chaos that in recent times bedeviled neighboring countries such as la Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and several others on the continent.

- The 'remoteness' of the study area would also serve as a feeler to perceptions of public/civil servants, especially the security (police) personnel serving in the area.

### **Condition of the physical environment**

Traditional belief systems and human activities in the region tend to regard the land as a reservoir of unlimited resources. Human activities, such as annual routine bush burning, indiscriminate tree felling for fuel wood, charcoal and other purposes and poor animal husbandry, have led to the destruction of the vegetation cover, increasing soil erosion and the depletion of soil fertility.

Inappropriate practices such as shifting cultivation, sand and gravel winning increase land degradation. Farming along the banks and in watercourses has also resulted in the silting of water bodies and destruction of vegetation protecting the water bodies. There is, however, a growing awareness of the need to maintain and sustain the environment. A manifestation of this is the existence of women groups for agro-forestry practice in almost all the districts in the region. Individuals have also adopted the habit of planting trees around their buildings. Developing economic tree plantations, such as cashew and mangoes, has gained popularity over the years. However, despite this growing awareness on environmental conservation, a lot needs to be done in view of the threat to desertification due to both human and natural factors. There is the need to balance socio-economic development with the requirements for conserving and enhancing natural capital on which all lives depend.



## **Historical and aesthetic factors**

The indigenous people of the Upper West Region traditionally secured their environment in their own way. They did not have formal institutions like the present policing system. Drawing inferences, Lentz (2006) notes that before the colonial introduction of the chieftaincy, anti-social behaviour was punished with sanctions imposed by the ancestors. According to Lentz (2006: 19) “attacks on members of other patriclans, however, were not only punishable, but were considered admirable deeds, kept in check only by the fear of violent revenge”. Social control in such small communities had most people obeying most rules and regulations willingly. They complied because they believed them to be right and perceived that in the long run it was in everybody’s interest to observe them.

As the society grew larger, social control became weaker in its self-policing elements. The need for formal security apparatus became an obligation if the society was to develop. This was primarily because, of the contention that, when people were involved with those whom they were unlikely to ever meet again, there might seem to be less reward for honest dealings. But, with technological progress, there has been a need for new laws e.g., introduction of automobiles. Thirdly, as societies grow, it becomes more difficult to relate public interest and private interest (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2003).

Tourism has been discovered to be one of the main driving forces of economic growth in least developed economies like Ghana. Even though there is strong tourism potential, this is yet to be developed to contribute meaningfully to the region’s economy. There is also the need to mainstream environmental issues

into tourism strategic planning for the overall reduction of poverty. The Wechau Hippo sanctuary located in the Wa West District for instance, is being developed as a major tourist attraction with a Canadian funding support. It is disappointing however, to note that bad fishing methods such as the use of poisonous substances, by the natives as witnessed by this writer. An incident reported to the Regional Upper West Police in 2006 at Wa, received the sympathy and intervention of opinion leaders, despite the fact that the hippo population deserted the area after the pollution, resulting in the loss of tourism. Instead of calling for sanctions against the culprits, the local chiefs were rather too concerned with the pleas for the “dropping” of the case by the Police.

#### Festivals/cultural practices

There are cultural activities that could foster unity and development. However, there are a few such as witnessed by the author at the NAFAC 2006 held at Wa, the Upper West Regional capital that need to be abolished. A cultural group from the Tumu traditional area grappled a dog, killed it by biting and devouring the raw meat amidst drumming and dancing as in Appendix 3. This in law, is a criminal act – ‘cruelty to animals’ in the Criminal Code 29 of 1960 (section 303). Other cultural practices that are at variance with the law and modernity include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), widowhood rites, and discrimination against the physically challenged. Another cultural practice that is injurious to the health of the girl -child in the area is child betrothal, contrary to the provisions of the ‘The Children’s Act 560’ of 1998. The practice also

undermines their development into productive adults. This and others, that come into conflict with law enforcement, and in an area that ‘traditions die-hard’ become pertinent challenges to development.

## Economy

The commerce/service sector is the second largest employer of the region’s labour force after agriculture. It encapsulates a wide range of tertiary activities. These include retailing and petty trading, transport and financial services and services provided by civil servants. Industry is characterized by small-scale activities and the use of labour intensive production technology. These include basketry, cloth/smock weaving, blacksmithing, ‘pito’ brewing, pottery and shea butter extraction. The moulding of aluminum cooking pots, the manufacture of illegal small arms and the cultivation of ‘Indian hemp’ in forest reserve areas are lucrative but a very serious threat to security. The major source of the raw materials for the cooking pots is unfortunately, the high tension cables of the Volta River Authority (VRA) bringing electricity into the region. These acts result in frequent power outages and disrupt the government’s rural electrification programme aimed at poverty reduction in these areas.

Cattle rearing is a major economic activity in the region, save the intrusion of the Fulani herdsmen who terrorize and rampage the rural folks with their large flock. Indeed, their activities have been a source of conflict in some of these areas, particularly as they are member-nationals of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and the need to be treated with circumspect.

These predominantly agrarian societies on their own also have been degrading the environment with negative practices such as bush burning and felling of the few trees left for charcoal. The result is accelerated desertification and making farming an expensive business.

### Energy

Energy, especially electricity, is one of the main elements that influence the rate of economic development in any locality. It is a key to production and lures investments. The importance of its availability cannot therefore be overemphasized in the development efforts of any people. Except the Wa East and Wa West Districts including their capital towns, all the others have been connected to the national electricity grid. Even though not all communities have been connected, efforts are going towards that direction through the Government's 'Rural Electrification Programme'. Meanwhile the alternative source of energy is the charcoal. In the Upper West Region, charcoal burning is the main source of energy for the home in the absence of electricity and petroleum products. This practice is also another factor in the desertification of the region as trees are felled for charcoal production.

### Social services

There has been a general improvement in the education, health and sanitation sectors between 2002 and 2006 in the region. The media is present in the region even if not as vibrant as their southern counterparts. The major national

dailies, the 'Daily Graphic' and 'The Ghanaian Times' are transported to the region by road and arrive late in the evening of the day of publication. Few tabloids make the journey up country. There are about four active FM radio stations but none provides 24-hour service. They nevertheless provide the medium for public contribution to good governance through phone-in and discussion of topical issues. Metro TV, a private television company started their programmes in the Wa municipality only late 2006, to end the bore of the only region in the country, where the state television - GTV broadcast is the sole television network.

The main ethnic groups comprise the Dagaaba, Wala and Sissala with other minority groups being Vagla, Lobi, Kassena and Chakali. With the gradual urbanization of the region due mainly to the setting up of tertiary institutions and opening up of the area through improved road networks and other social activities, other ethnic groups from other parts of the country, especially the Akans and the Ewes from southern Ghana have settled in the area. There are also expatriates who are engaged in the education, medical and religious sectors.

### Security

Even though the region is acclaimed to be the most peaceful in the country in terms of crime statistics, the trends are not different from the other regions. Violent crimes such as armed robbery, rape, communal violence and 'instance justice' are not uncommon in the area. Also of security interest are

environmental risks and opportunities to ensure conformity with sound environmental practices.

Major security concerns aside of the above include land, Chieftaincy, and religious disputes. Besides the menace of the Fulani herdsmen which is also a worry, the control of small arms need to be seen in the proper perspective as part of measures to strengthen democracy, peace and development of the area. Cross-border crime is common along the border areas with the net result of the Burkina miscreants preferring the liberal legal system in Ghana to that at their home-lands (the author as a Regional Police Commander and a member of the REGSEC has been privy to bilateral talks across the borders with his Burkinabe counterparts on cross-border crimes). Human trafficking is an emerging trend that needs the attention of the authorities.

The indigenous political organisation of the Upper West Region in the pre-colonial period varied between that of a segmentary, egalitarian, more or less peaceful decentralised society. On the other hand, emerged the development of chieftaincies at an early stage. To Lentz, “this multi-layered pre-colonial political landscape highlighted in particular the sources of identification and commonality as well as the bases of conflict to which the colonial construction of ethnicity and chieftaincy had to relate” (Lentz 2006:15). There were no formal institutions such as the present policing of the society.

### **Study design**

The study is a survey and non-experimental. Although this design does not allow the researcher to assume cause and effect relationships among variables because of lack of control over the processes, it is justified for a study of human beings in their natural setting (Sproul, 1988). Results can only lead to conclusions about associations, for example, between variables of good governance and sustainable development on the one hand, and peace and security on the other. As a survey design, the case study approach was adopted to ensure an intensive study of the variables in question within the given population setting. For this reason, the study was mainly qualitative.

### **Study population**

The study population is the entire Upper West Region. This population has many strata including eight local government administrative districts (Table 1). Civil society was divided into two segments of ordinary people and public service personnel in order to capture the possible variety of opinion for the study. Civil society comprises key informants, made up of traditional leaders, heads of departments, opinion leaders and members of the general public. The public service was represented by the security sector and in this instance, the police who are the major institution of the sector in the study area.

At the time of this study, the entire Police Service had a projected manpower strength of about 20,634 serving a national population of approximately 23 million, working out to a police-civilian population ratio of

approximately 1:1000. The UN standard ratio for member states is 1:500, thus making Ghanaians under protected in their country (Attafuah, 2008). The Police Service had manpower strength of about 300 in the Upper West Region, giving a ratio of more than double that of the national ratio for policing. This implies a bad ratio but not necessarily a worsening security situation due to factors that are not under consideration now; but nevertheless are of developmental importance.

### **Sampling frame**

Since the study is based on a development perspective and the District Assemblies are the agents of local level development as well as having the necessary representations, District Assembly areas were used as the units for sample selection. The sampling frame in each district, consisted of the traditional leaders, heads of departments and opinion leaders targeted purposefully as key informants. A similar procedure was followed in selecting the sample from the security sector. Using the 2000 Population and Housing Census (GSS, 2005) as basis, the Municipal status of Wa, with a population of 66,644, drew more respondents (50 persons) whilst Lawra, Jirapa and Tumu with populations of less than 10,000 a piece but more than 5000 drew 15 respondents each, and the rest of the districts capitals with populations less than 5000 also providing 15 respondents each. Wa is most urban and with a high number of literacy mainly due to the educational facilities that vary from primary to the tertiary level. There are also a large number of public servants and other non natives in the township. The sample selected therefore was to reflect these factors without overplaying the



issues. The process yielded one hundred and sixty-five (165) respondents. However, only 14 respondents instrument were usable in Jirapa thus giving a sample size of 164. Table 1 shows the sizes of samples from the different districts in the region while Figure 1 represents the map of the region.

**Table 1: Location and size of respondents selected from each district**

District	Population	Location	Sample selected	
			Civil society	Security
Wa Municipal	More than 200,000	Wa	50	15
Lawra	Less than 75,000	Lawra	20	5
Sissala East	Less than 75,000	Tumu	20	5
Sissala West	Less than 50,000	Gowllu	15	5
Wa East	Less than 50,000	Funsi	15	5
Wa West	Less than 50,000	Wechau	15	5
Nadowli	Less than 50,000	Nadowli	15	5
Jirapa/Lambushie	Less than 50,000	Jirapa	114	5
Total	Approx. 600,000		164	50

Source: Ghana Statistics Service (2002)

## **Sampling procedure**

The multi-stage sampling method was employed in the selection of respondents. Multi-stage sampling is a kind of probability sample design in which two or more levels of units are imbedded one in the other. At each stage, a sample of the corresponding units is selected. At first, a sample of primary units is selected, then, in each of those selected, a sample of secondary units is selected, and so on (Sproul, 1988). All ultimate units (i.e. individuals) selected at the last step of this procedure are then surveyed. This method was used because a general sampling frame for each category of respondents did not exist.

At the first stage of the sampling process, respondents were clustered according to their districts of residence. Eight districts (clusters) were identified. These were Wa Municipal, Wa East and Wa West, and Lawra District Assemblies. The rest were Sissala East and West, Nadowli and Jirapa/ Lambushie District Assemblies.

At the second stage, respondents were further clustered according to their status and /or occupation in their districts. Traditional rulers, opinion leaders and senior public servants were grouped into one cluster while security personnel (Police officers) and the general public also formed a cluster respectively.

At the third stage, the study employed the purposive sampling method in the selection of respondents in the first cluster (i.e. traditional rulers, opinion leaders and public servants). This method was used because the total population was not known and for that matter, probability sampling was considered not feasible. Police officers and members of the public service were selected from the

population with the aim of highlighting security perceptions and effects of governance in the society. Thus, samples selected had not less than two years residence in the study area in order to have a fair knowledge of the terrain. In total, 164 respondents were selected from the population. These include 27 security personnel, 45 traditional rulers, opinion leaders, and senior public servants. The general public contributed 92 respondents to the sample.

Using the 2000 Census (GSS, 2002) as basis, the Municipal status of Wa, with a population of 66,644, drew more respondents (50 persons) whilst Lawra, Jirapa and Tumu with populations of less than 10,000 a piece but more than 5000 drew 15 respondents each, and the rest of the districts capitals with populations less than 5000 also providing 15 respondents each. Wa is most urban and with a high number of literacy mainly due to the educational facilities that vary from primary to the tertiary level. There are also a large number of public servants and other non natives in the township. The sample selected therefore was to reflect these factors without overplaying the issues. The process yielded one hundred and sixty-five (165) respondents. However, only 14 respondents' questionnaires were usable in Jirapa thus giving a sample size of 164.

### **Research instrument**

Data were obtained from two main sources; namely primary and secondary sources. The secondary sources included assembly documents, police reports and other pertinent in-house documents (such as District/Municipal

Development Plan) of various stakeholders in the Region. It was, however, necessary to collect primary data from the population.

Two set of questionnaires were designed for the study. The first set of questionnaires was designed for all the identifiable stakeholders except security (Police) personnel. This included traditional rulers, opinion leaders, public servants and members of the public. The second set of questionnaire was developed for security personnel only.

The first set of questionnaires (i.e. for traditional rulers and opinion leaders) was divided into four main parts. The first part contained the demographic background of respondents while the second part focused on issues of sustainable development and security. Section three focused on the environment while section four centred on maintenance of peace and security.

The questionnaire for the Police personnel was the same as that of non-security personnel, except that in the case of the police personnel, additional section namely Police –public relations was added.

### **Pre-test**

A pre-test of the research instrument was undertaken three weeks before the start of the actual work. This was done in Wa, the regional capital and at Nadowli, representing both urban and a rural setting respectively. The outcome led to reshaping of ideas and questions asked, in order to cover/capture the intended objective of the study.

### **The fieldwork**

Collection of data was done throughout the months of July and August 2007. This is the time of the year when most of the citizens of the Upper West Region usually return from their perennial trips down south in the dry season to attend to their farms. It is also the rainy season and the only major cropping season in the area. Five field assistants were recruited, three from among National Servicemen and two Police personnel, trained in the art and science of data collection. They were then deployed to administer the questionnaires to identified respondents. The primary data contained both open-ended and close-ended questions. The questionnaires were given to respondents to answer themselves while the field assistants provided support and clarifications. In situations where respondents could not read and write, the field assistants helped them in writing the answers to questions in the questionnaires.

### **Data management and analysis**

Data collected were cleaned, edited and processed using the Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) version 12 software to generate descriptive statistics such as percentages, frequencies and charts. Frequencies and percentages were used in describing response outputs. Cross-tabulation was also used to determine association between identified variables. The researcher also used his vast experience as a police commander to provide insight and understanding that would enrich the analysis.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter presents details of the findings that emerged from the field and discusses them with respect to the literature. It focuses on the background of respondents, state of development and security in the Upper West Region, the relationship between the police and stakeholders and the protection of the environment.

#### **Demographic characteristics of respondents**

Information on the demographic characteristics of populations helps to better understand their views and perspectives about the issues relating to security and sustainable development. Demographic factors include age, sex, marital status, level of education, sector of employment and the number of years of residency in the study area.

#### **Age distribution of respondents**

About 29 percent of the respondents were within the ages of 31- 40 while only 7 percent were above 60 years. The majority (80%) of the respondents were within the ages of 20- 60 years. However all the age groups were represented

ranging from 19.0% (21-30 years), 22.0% (41-50years) and 14.0% (51-60 years). This indicates that the various age groups were fairly represented in the study, offering the opportunity for a fair cross section of the population to address the issue of sustainable development and security in the study region of Upper West.

**Table 2: Age distribution of respondents**

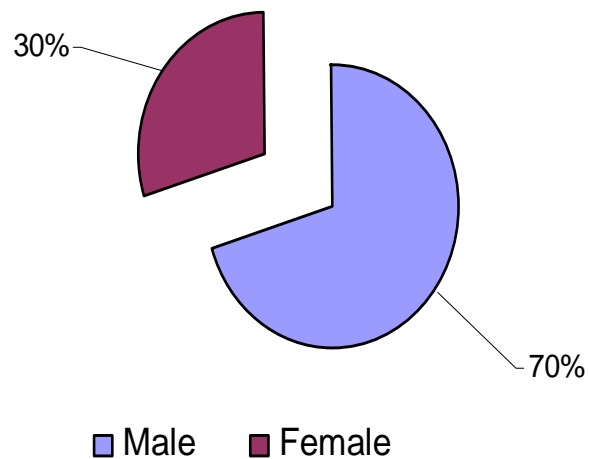
Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below 20	15	9.0
21 – 30	31	19.0
31 – 40	47	29.0
41 – 50	36	22.0
51 – 60	23	14.0
Above 60	12	7.0
Total	164	100.0

Source: Field data, 2007

**Sex distribution of respondents**

Both male and female respondents were involved in the study. Figure 2 gives the sex distribution in percentages. The male respondents were 70.0% of the sample and the females 30.0%. This is typical of a male-dominated tradition despite the fact that the 2000 census indicates that females form the larger part of the population in the region. The under representation of women in the study implies that they are marginalised in the region. This is because the sample frame

consisted of key stakeholders in the region and suggests that women do not occupy such key positions. To develop on a sustainable basis there is the need for equity and fair representation of both men and women in decision that affect them (WHO, 1978).



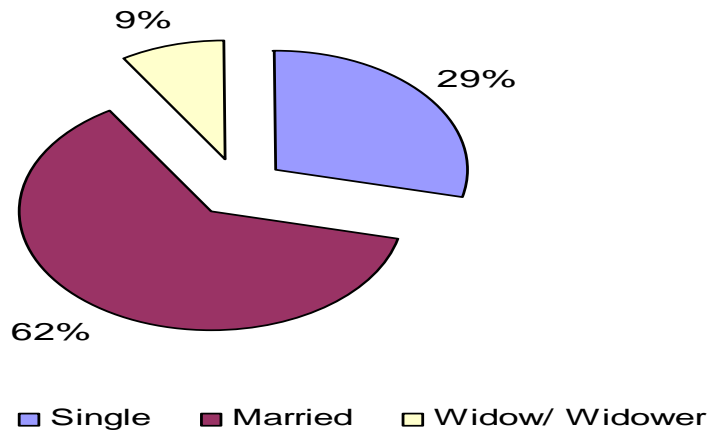
**Figure 3: Sex distribution of respondents**

Source: Field data, 2007

### **Marital status of respondents**

The respondents were asked about their marital statuses and the responses are summarized in the chart below (Figure 4). The respondents who are married form the largest proportion (62.0%) whilst the widows/widowers formed the least proportion (9.0%). This somewhat confirms the fact that people of Northern Ghana place much premium on marriage.



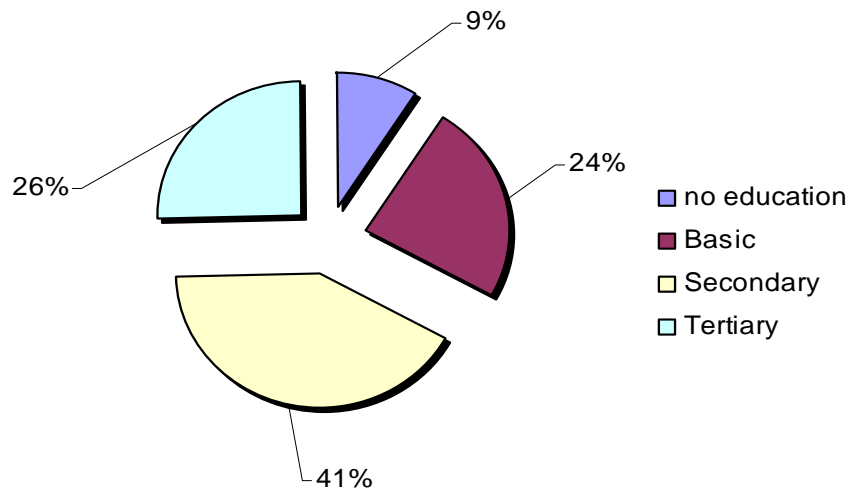


**Figure 4: Marital status of respondents**

Source: Field data, 2007

#### **Educational background of respondents**

To be able to read and write has been acknowledged as a human right. These basic skills are needed to build and sustain a livelihood, to participate in society, and are a stimulus for further learning for human development. Figure 5 summarises the educational background of respondents. About 9 percent of the respondents had no education at all, while only 26 percent of the respondents had been educated up to the tertiary level. The majority (65%) have had secondary or basic education as shown in Figure 4. Thus the sample of respondents were averagely educated.



**Figure 5: Educational background of respondents**

Source: Field data, 2007

### **Occupational background**

The occupational background of respondents is necessary in evaluating their understanding on key issues that promotes sustainable development. For instance, since sustainable development relates to the environment, the level of awareness of farmers on environmental and resource management is vital for any policy intervention. In this respect, the respondents were asked about their occupation. Table 3 gives the distribution of respondents with respect to the type of occupation of employment in which they were engaged. Most respondents were public sector workers. As much as 32 percent and 17 percent worked in the public sector (non security personnel) and public sector (security) respectively. Farmers form 20 percent. However, farming is the traditional occupation in the

study area. Self employed persons and private sector employees accounted for 13 percent and 15 percent of the respondents respectively as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Respondents' occupation**

Type of Employment	Frequency	Percentage
Farming	32	20.0
Self employed	22	13.0
Public Sector-security	27	17.0
Public Sector-non security	53	32.0
Private sector employed	25	15.0
Unemployed	5	3.0
Total	164	100.0

Source: Field data, 2007

The results presented in the Table 3 do not reflect the fact that the study area is predominantly a farming community. However, this seems acceptable considering the fact that many of the targeted respondents such as police personnel, municipal and district administrators and other informants are not into full- time farming.

Field observation, large percent of all respondents who do not have any form of education are farmers, whilst the rest are self employed in petty trading. The majority of those with basic educational background are in self-employment and farming while the remaining work as watchmen, cleaners and the like in private and public organizations.

### **Years of residency in the study area**

It is believed that the length of stay of respondents in an area is a factor in acquiring knowledge about security and development issues in that area. The study therefore asked respondents to indicate the number of years of their residency in the region and the results are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Years of resident of respondents in the study area**

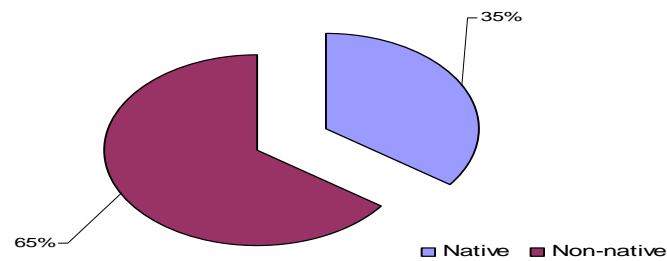
Years of Resident	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1	8	5.0
1 – 5	24	15.0
6 – 10	41	25.0
11 – 15	46	28.0
16 – 20	28	17.0
Above 20	16	10.0
Total	164	100

Source: Field data, 2007

Table 4 clearly reveals that respondents have generally had a lengthy stay in the region. Only 5.0% of them have had a stay of less than a year and as much as 80.0% have stayed in the region for more than 5 years. This implies that the respondents have had enough experience in the region to provide informed opinion on security and development issues in the region.

### **Respondents' residential status**

It is assumed that a native of the region would have better understanding and perception of the issues under consideration. Figure 6 provides information about the residential status of respondents. Clearly, many of the respondents interviewed (65.0%) were natives of the Upper West Region while 35 percent were ordinary residents who by virtue of work, marriage or other factors were residing in the region.



**Figure 6: Respondents' residential status**

Source: Field data, 2007

### **State of sustainable development in the Upper West Region**

The concept of sustainable development exists in the atmosphere of peace, security, good governance, protection of human rights and sound economic management (Mintzer, 1992). The analysis of responses on sustainable development issues therefore assesses views on how it manifests in the Upper West Region.

## **Socio-economic development**

As mentioned in the literature, sound economic development is one of the basic ingredients for sustainable development. The Upper West Region was carved out of the Upper Region, which encompassed both the Upper West and the Upper East regions. The separation of the two regions was done to promote economic and infrastructural development. Respondents were asked about their opinion on the impact of the division of the region on the development of the area and whether development in the region would have been better had there been no division of the Upper Region, responses are given in Table 5.

The majority of respondents (55.0%) indicated that the division has had significant positive impact on development in the region, while 4 percent believed the impact had been negative. Some of the respondents (24.0%) indicated “no idea” perhaps due to their lack of knowledge about the history behind the creation of the region as recorded in Table 5. The results generally suggest that, residents perceived the creation of the region as impacting positively on economic and infrastructural development.

The study also sought the responses and opinions of the respondents about the region’s share of national development. About half (49.0%) of the respondents were of the view that the present allocation of national resources to the region had been relatively better as in Table 6. About 25 percent of respondents also perceived the pace of development as bad while 19.0% also find the rate of development as worsening.

**Table 5: Opinions about the impact of the creation of Upper West Region**

Opinions	Native	Non-native	%	Total
	No.	No.		
Positive impact	35	55	55.0	90
No impact	10	18	17.0	28
Negative impact	3	4	4.0	7
No idea	9	30	24.0	39
Total	57	107	100.0	164

Source: Field data, 2007

The general comment was that the region deserves more development than it has been receiving considering the fact that it had been much marginalized for long a time dating back to colonial period. According to one municipal administrator, this is the only way to bridge the development gap between the Upper West region and other regions in southern Ghana.

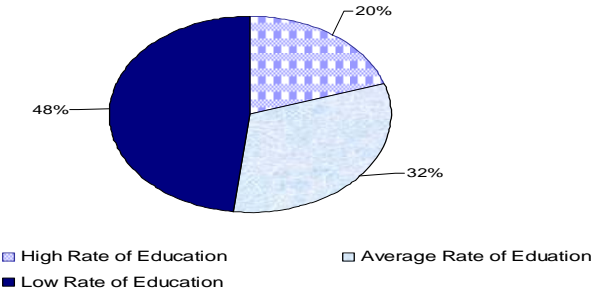
**Table 6: Respondents perception on resource allocation to the region**

Perception	Number	Percentage
Very good	12	7.0
Relatively better	80	49.0
Bad	41	25.0
Worse	31	19.0
Total	164	100.0

Source: Field data, 2007

**Access to education in the Upper West Region**

Much hope is pinned on education as the lynchpin of Ghana’s drive for social and economic development. Human capital attainments in Asia are unceasingly cited in the literature as one of the major reasons for East Asia success and African failure in leap-frogging economic development (Clark, 1995). Residents of the Upper West Region were therefore asked whether school going age children have access to quality education. The responses have been summarized in Figure 7. The results indicate that 48.0 percent of the respondents think that the standard of education in the region is low. According to them, the standard of education in the region falls below the national average, stating that there are a lot of children of school-going age who are out of school in the region. However, a good proportion, 32 percent of the respondents think that education is at least average when used in inter-temporal sense (i.e. some improvement can be observed when one studies the trend of education over some period of time) while 20.0% indicated that the standard has been high.



**Figure 7: Rate of children’s access to education in the Upper West Region**

Source: Field data, 2007



The results suggest that many school going age children do not have access to quality education with possible serious negative consequences for the human resource development trend of the present and future generations. To develop on a sustainable basis, both human and material resources should be developed in tandem but this appears missing in the case of the Upper West Region. This is also a source of concern since it is not compatible with the national goal of sustainable social and economic development as suggested by the Ghana Statistical Service (2000).

### **Quality of health care in the Upper West Region**

Sound economic development has a direct bearing on the quality and access to health-care in the Upper West Region. Respondents were therefore asked about the quality of health care in the region. As shown in Table 7 the majority of the respondents (62.0%) in the region think that health care delivery in the region is poor compared to other regions in Southern Ghana. About 23.0% of respondents also rated health care delivery in the region as average while 9.0 percent of respondents are satisfied with the quality of health care in the region describing it as good. The view of respondents corresponds to findings of UNDP (2007) that access to health care is low in the three northern regions. About 69.6 percent of the residents in the region do not have access to adequate health care and travel more than 30 minutes to access the nearest healthcare facility (UNDP, 2007:33). Malnutrition is also most prevalent in the Upper West Region.

**Table 7: Access and quality of healthcare in the Upper West Region**

Distribution	Frequency	Percentage
Very good	10	6.0
Good	15	9.0
Average	38	23.0
Poor	101	62.0
Total	164	100.0

Source: Field data, 2007

### **Availability of basic social infrastructure in the Upper West Region**

Sustainable development requires that residents in the Upper West Region should have access to basic amenities, such as good drinking water, good roads, and other social infrastructure. The study therefore asked respondents to assess the state of these infrastructural developments in the region (Table 8).

**Table 8: Opinion on the state of social infrastructure in the region**

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Deplorable	92	56.1
Average	41	25.0
Satisfactory	31	18.9
Total	164	100.0

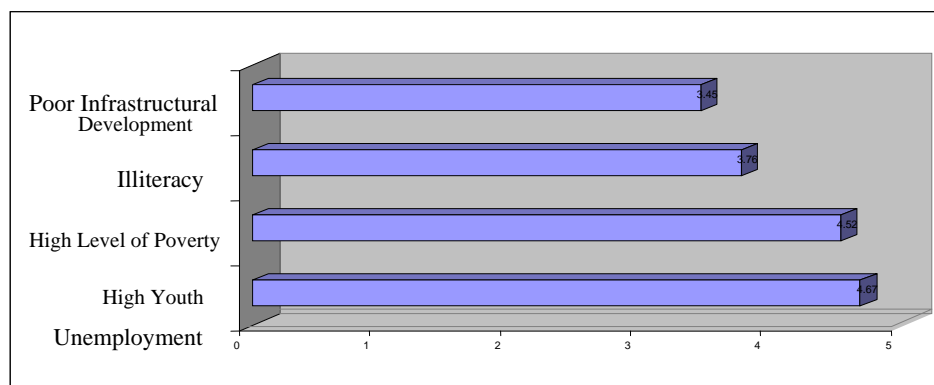
Source: Field data, 2007

About 56 percent of the respondents find the present state of development as deplorable whilst 25.0% describe it as average and still others think that it is

satisfactory (18.9%). The results suggest that the pace of economic development in the Upper West Region is perceived to be slow.

### **Challenges to maintaining sound economic development**

The study also sought stakeholders' views on the challenges facing the region in the effort at maintaining sound economic development. On a 5 point scale (5= Most important; 4=Important; 3= somewhat important; 2= less important; and 1= Not important) respondents were asked to rank their opinion on this issue (Figure 8). High level of youth unemployment in the region was ranked as the greatest challenge with a mean value of 4.67. This is followed by high level of poverty among the populace in the region (Mean 4.52). Poor infrastructural development (i.e. poor road networks) in the region was also said to be affecting sound socio-economic development in the region (mean =3.45). Illiteracy was also rated as one of the challenges facing the region in an effort to break the poverty cycle (mean=3.76).



**Figure 8: Mean rankings of challenges to attaining sustainable socio-economic development**

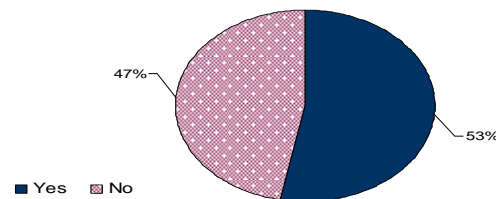
Source: Field data, 2007

## **Suggestions for improving the socio-economic livelihood of residents in the region**

Respondents were asked what they thought should be done by stakeholders to address the numerous socio-economic challenges facing the region. Many respondents called for the creation of youth employment programmes to engage the youth. It was also suggested that the government should increase the budgetary allocation to the region to increase the pace of development. The need to improve health care and access to education also cropped up. There was strong advocacy for by-laws that would enjoin all parents to send their children to school and in return the government should extend the school feeding programme to every school in the region to encourage the children to stay in the classroom. The state of healthcare infrastructure, it was suggested, needed urgent attention as basic health care is out of reach to the masses of the people. District Assemblies were asked to intervene to pay the annual subscription of the National Health Insurance Scheme for the very poor to increase their access to basic health care. The government was enjoined to find incentive schemes and targeted policies that will improve conditions in the north. The view of some respondents, as suggested by APRM (2005) was that not only government policies should be blamed but also qualified northerners who have moved south and to foreign countries for greener pastures.

## Protection of the environment

Adequate protection of the environment is one of the key components of sustainable development. The environment and other natural resources should be managed to meet the needs of both the present and future generations. Respondents were required to state their awareness of the need to protect water bodies in their catchments area. Many residents interviewed responded in the affirmative (59 percent) while 41 percent indicated their lack of knowledge of issues regarding the need to protect water bodies in the district (see Figure 9).



**Figure 9: Awareness of the need to protect water bodies in the UWR**

Source: Field data, 2007

Although the responses would be welcome news for environmentalists, further analysis reveals that about 81.0 percent of the sampled farmers indicated their lack of knowledge on this issue (see Table 9). This result suggests that the very people whose activities greatly impact on the environment are not enlightened on environmental protection. However, all public sector security personnel interviewed were aware of the need to protect water bodies while only 28 percent of public sector non-security were unaware. This implies that law enforcement could help check the abuse of water bodies. However, there is an inherent problem for environmental resource governance if the main stakeholders are unaware of the basics.

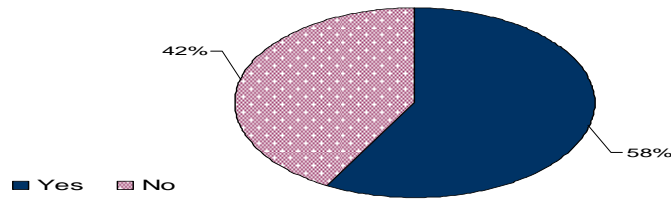
**Table 9: Awareness of environmental protection by occupation of respondents (Percent)**

Type of Employment	Awareness		Total
	Yes	No	
Farming	19	81	100
Self employed	54	46	100
Public sector-security	100	0	100
Public sector-non security	72	28	100
Private sector employed	52	48	100
Unemployed	20	60	100

n=164

Source: Field data, 2007

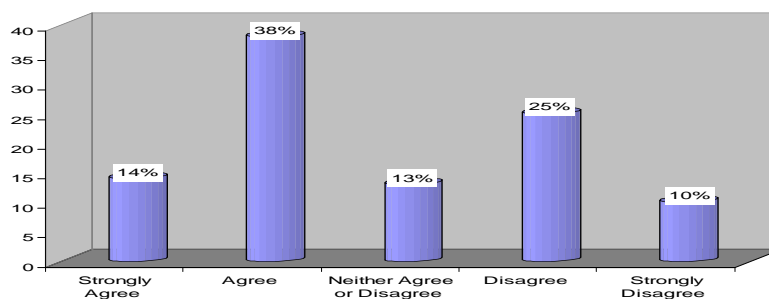
Information was obtained from respondents about their knowledge of the District Assembly bye-laws which prohibit rampant bush burning and farming along river banks. The majority of the respondents (58.0%) who answered this question indicated that they were not familiar with these bye-law while the remaining 42.0% responded in the affirmative (Figure 10). The results suggest that education about environmental protections issues is lacking among residents in the Upper West Region.



**Figure 10: Knowledge of bye-laws on environmental protection**

Source: Field data, 2007

Respondents were asked to share their views about the assertion that the younger generation would have nothing to live on if the environment was not managed on a sustainable basis. Thirty eight percent of the respondents agreed to this assertion whilst 28.0% disagreed. Respondents' in the middle line (i.e. neither agrees nor disagrees) also formed 13.0% of the sample (Figure 11). The results suggest that many residents in the Upper West Region were aware of the implication of environmental degrading for both the present and future generations. This awareness may translate into an easier application of regulations for enhanced resource management and governance, despite the problem of the farmers.



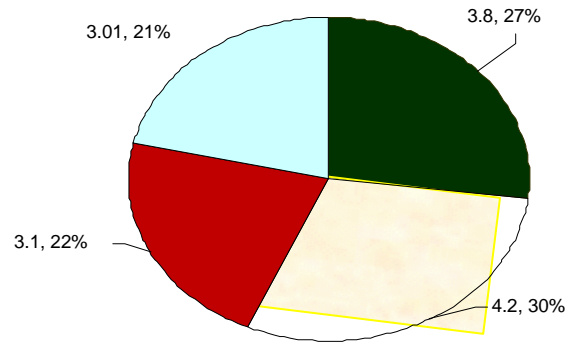
**Figure 11: Distribution of respondents' understanding of the implication of environmental degradation**

Source: Field data, 2007

The study also sought from respondents why they continuously flouted bye-laws on environmental protection despite being aware of its implications for the present and future generations. Some respondents said “ we do not have any means of livelihood rather than depend on the environment for survival” Some also mentioned that “the people are poor and do not understand modern farming methods other than burning the farm lands”. Almost all the reasons given centred on the theme of poverty in the region as a precursor of environmental degradation in the region.

The study finally asked respondents what they thought should be done to ensure sustainable use of natural resources in the region. Respondents were asked to rank on a 5 point scale (5= Most important; 4=Important, 3. somewhat important; 2= less important and 1= Not important) their opinion on these suggestions. The percentage means of their responses were thus computed (Table 10). Many respondents suggested the need to educate the public on environmental protection issues (Mean=4.2). Some also suggested strict enforcement of environmental bye-laws as a means of safeguarding the environment (Mean= 3.8). It was also recommended that adoption of modern farming practices would reduce the pressure on the limited resources, particularly land, in the region (Mean=3.1). Suggestions were also made on the need to improve upon the living condition of the people (Mean =3.01).





- Strict enforcement of environmental protection by-laws
- Improved public education on environmental protection and resource use
- Education on the adoption of improved method of farming
- Creating of jobs opportunities for the people

**Figure 12: Suggestions on protecting the environment from degradation**

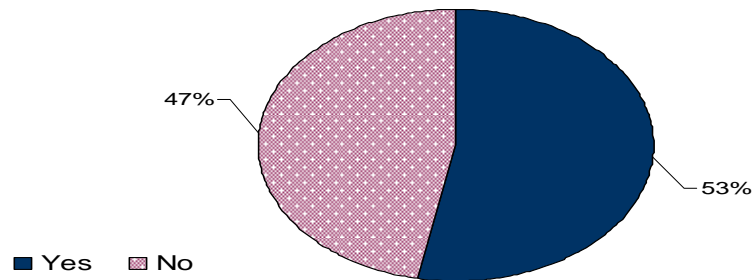
Source: Field data, 2007

Apparently, a dilemma exists here for managing resources in the region. There is general awareness of the need for environmental protection. However, the critical farming sectors are claiming unawareness of the bye-laws to protect water bodies and other resources. Thus the poverty – environmental degradation connection raises issues here with application for local resources governance.

### **Peace and security**

As noted by Kaplan (1995), security, peace and stability are preconditions for the well-being and functioning of every society. The survey, therefore, asked respondents whether they had experienced conflict in their neighbourhood or district in the last 10 years. A little over half (53 percent) of respondents answered in the affirmative, while the rest indicated that they had not experienced conflict in their neighbourhood, district or region before (Figure 12). The results indicate that many residents in the region have at least experienced conflict before and are

therefore in a better position to assess the present state of security and how it can be improved to ensure sustainable development in the region.



**Figure 13: Respondents' experience of conflict**

Source: Field data, 2007

Respondents were further asked about the nature of conflict or insecurity they had experienced in the region. From the responses (Table 13), it appears that chieftaincy disputes form the greater percentage of conflict experienced by respondents (52 percent). This is followed by land dispute (16 percent) and then crime (12 percent).

The result is consistent with the findings of Awedoba (2007) that 17 chieftaincy disputes were pending at the Judicial Committees of the Upper West Regional House of Chiefs. Five paramountcies were vacant and wrought with petitions. Almost every district in the Upper West Region has at least one pending chieftaincy dispute.

**Table 10: Nature of conflict experienced in the Upper West Region**

Nature of Conflict	Frequency	Percentage
Chieftaincy dispute	45	52
Land dispute	14	16
Crime	10	12
Religious conflict	9	10
Cross border crimes	9	10
Human right violations& human trafficking	4	5
Others	3	4
Total	86	100

n=86

Source: Field data, 2007

Although many disputes are pending at the judicial committee level, the absence of traditional leadership at that high level is itself a hindrance to the resolution of chieftaincy disputes at the lower level. The results imply that chieftaincy dispute is a major hindrance to sustainable development in the Upper West Region.

Respondents were asked to state their perception about the state of security in their district or neighbourhood (Table 11). About 45 percent of the respondents indicated that their region was relatively peaceful while 30 percent described the situation as highly insecure. About 13 percent of respondents also described the security situation as tensed while 7 percent also think that there had been upsurge of violence in the region. The results suggest that many people felt

that the Upper West Region is not peaceful enough. This has serious negative implication for sustainable socio-economic development as an unstable region hardly attract investment which is badly needed to put the region on a sustainable footing. As observed by Kaplan (1995), the idea of peace forms an integral part of the idea of sustainable development and the absence of peace means the region would lag behind in effort to develop.

**Table 11: Perceived state of security in the Upper West Region**

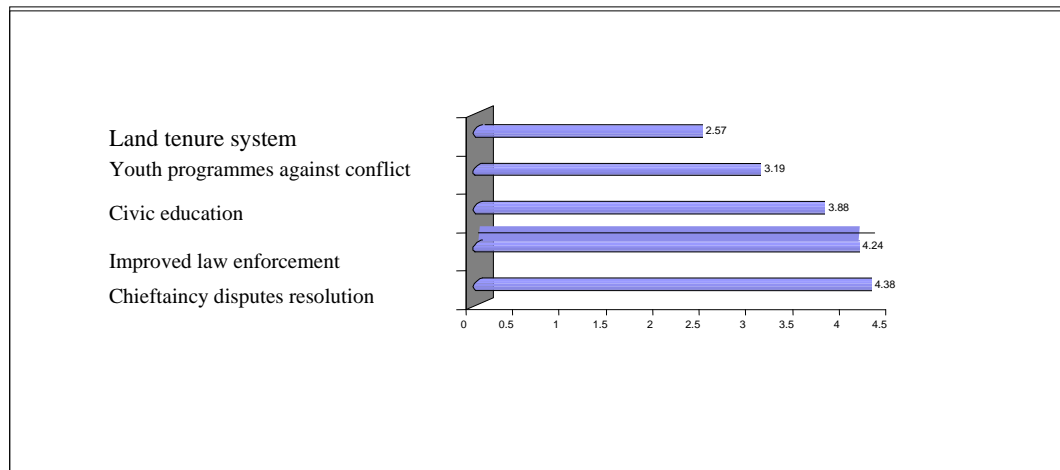
Perception	Frequency	Percentage
Relatively peaceful	72	45
Highly insecure	48	30
Tensed	21	13
Upsurge in voice	11	7
Others	8	5
Total	160	100

Source: Field data, 2007

### **Suggestions for improving the security of the Upper West Region**

Respondents were further asked to share their opinions on measures set to improve the security of their neighbourhood/town/ district or region. Respondents were asked to rank on a 5 point scale (5= Most important; 4=Important, 3. somewhat important; 2= less important and 1= Not important) their opinion on these suggestions. The means of their response were, thus, computed. The results

as shown in Figure 14 indicate that many residents interviewed rated the need to resolve the numerous chieftaincy disputes raging in the region as the most important measures for safeguarding the peace and security of the region (Mean=4.38). The need to improve law enforcement in the region was also suggested with a mean value of 4.24. Some respondents also indicated the need for civic education on conflict resolution, tolerance, and mutual co-existence among neighbours and between tribesmen or ethnic groups (mean=3.88), and twenty three percent also indicated the need for law enforcement. A suggestion was also made to the effect that the youth should be engaged with employment programmes to take their mind off violent activities.



**Figure 14: Suggestions for improving the state of security situation in the Upper West Region**

Source: Field data, 2007

### **Public – police relationship in the promotion of peace and security**

One of the objectives of the study was to examine the relationship between the police and the general public in the context of promoting security and sustainable development. In this respect, the study asked security personnel how regular does the security hierarchy involve key stakeholders in policing decisions. As shown in Table 12, 42 percent of the security personnel interviewed indicated that the police hierarchy regularly involves stakeholders in policing decisions. About 23 percent reported that these contacts had been irregular. Those opined that this contact ‘rarely’ takes place constitute 19 percent of the sampled security personnel. The results imply that Police Officers were evenly divided as to their level of interaction with stakeholders

**Table 12: Interaction between police and stakeholders Upper West Region**

Regularity	Frequency	Percentage
Very regular	2	8
Regular	12	42
Irregular	6	23
Rarely	5	19
Not at all	2	8
Total	27	100

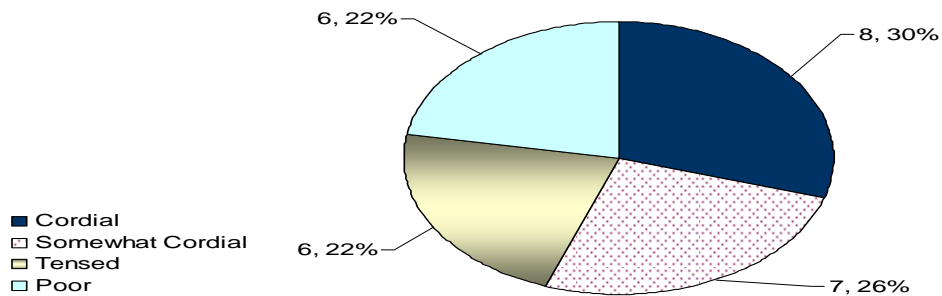
Source: Field data, 2007

Analysis of secondary information on the composition of members of the District and Regional Security Councils (DISEC and REGSEC) also reveals that

Traditional Chiefs, the District Chief Executive and the District or Regional Police Commanders regularly meet to discuss issues relating to maintenance of peace and security in their areas of jurisdiction. The little direct involvement of the community in policing decisions does not augur well in building trust between the police and the general public. As Potholm (1969) asserted, policing should be made more functional especially in deprived communities. Adapting police methods that are relevant to the community would greatly win the understanding and the co-operation of the public concerned.

### **Description of police- public relationship**

Information was obtained also from security personnel on their relationship with the general public. Some 30 percent of respondents described the relationship as ‘cordial’, while 26 percent thought the relationship was somewhat cordial. About 22 percent each described the relationship as ‘poor’ and ‘tensed’ (Figure 15). The mixed responses suggest that the police service did not enjoy maximum level of cooperation it needed to maintain peace and security in the region. The results appear to contradict the suggestion made by Rakgoadi (1995) to the effect that the police service needed to be people-oriented if it is to reduce growing crime rate, arrest offenders, find solutions to recurring problems and enhance the quality of life of the community. This however, appears not to be the strategy of the police.



**Figure 15: Distribution of security personnel relationship with the public**

Source: Field data, 2007

**Description of the rate at which the public volunteer information**

One of the barometers for gauging cooperation between the police and the general public is the rate at which the public volunteer information to the police on incidents of lawlessness by their neighbours. The survey therefore asked security personnel to describe the rate at which the public cooperate with them when it comes to volunteering information. The results as shown in Table 13 indicate that the public rarely provide information to the police on incidence of crime and conflict, making criminal investigations very difficult. About 55 percent of security personnel indicated that the public hardly divulge information to them. The results imply a sort of non-cooperation between the police and the general public.



**Table 13: Public-police co-operation in the Upper West Region**

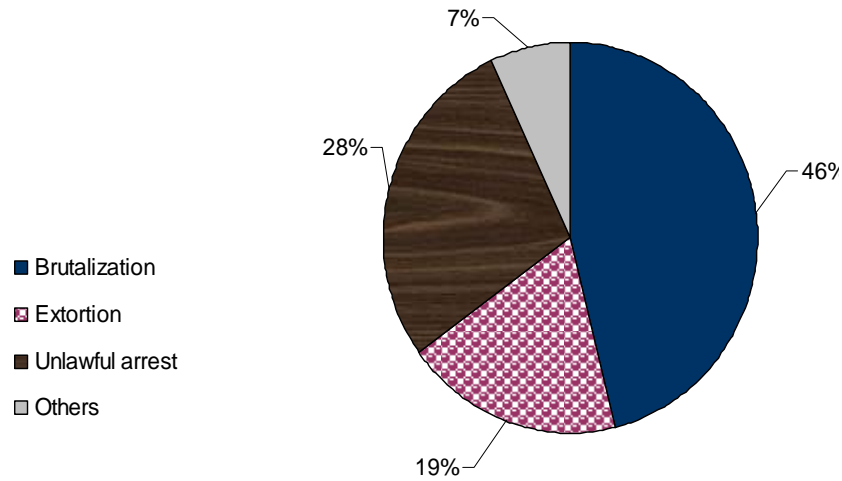
Relationship	Frequency	Percentage
Cordial	5	19
Some what cordial	4	15
Tensed	15	55
poor	3	11
Total	27	100

Source: Field data, 2007

The study further obtained information from police personnel on what they thought accounted for this low level of voluntary cooperation from the general public. Some respondents noted that “the people do not trust them” and they fear reprisals from the suspects and their relatives if found out later that they divulged such information”. It was also mentioned that low level of public education on the need of the community to partner the police in preventing crime and other security threats account for the present state of relationship between the police and the general public.

The study also asked security personnel about the nature of complaints they frequently received from the public. The results indicate that reports of alleged police brutality were the highest recorded complaints received from the public, representing 46 percent of the views of respondents (Figure 16). This is followed by report of unlawful arrest (28 percent) and extortion (19 percent). The allegation of manhandling of civilian by the security agencies does not promote

the mutual trust and cooperation required to guarantee sustainable peace and security of the region.

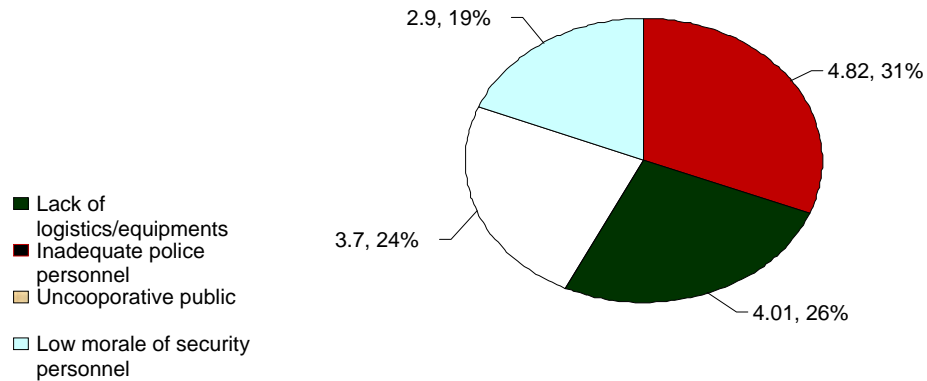


**Figure 16: Distribution of number of complaints received by security personnel (N=27)**

Source: Field data, 2007

The study further asked security personnel about the problems confronting the security services in their efforts to promote peace and security in the Upper West Region. Respondents were asked to rank on a 5 point scale (5= most important; 4= important, 3. somewhat important; 2= less important and 1= not important) their opinions on this issue. The means of their response were thus computed. The results indicate that lack of logistics/equipment pose the greatest obstacle to maintaining peace and security in the Upper West Region (Mean = 4.82), followed by the problem of inadequate police personnel (mean= 4.01) and an uncooperative public (mean =3.7). The police therefore need to be provided

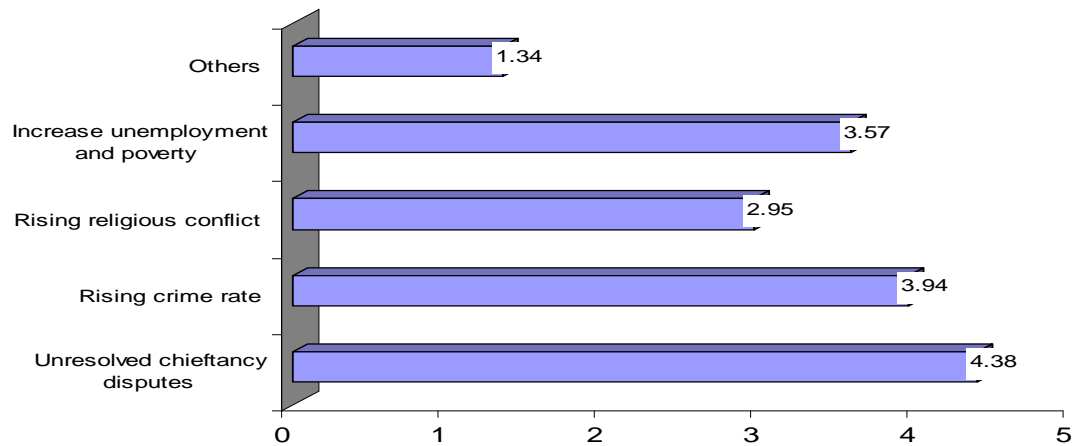
with adequate logistics such as vehicles to intensify community policing, a need that appears to be unsatisfied in the Upper West Region.



**Figure 17: Distribution of challenges facing the security service in promoting peace and security personnel**

Source: Field data, 2007

The study finally obtained information on the nature of security threats facing the police service in their quest to maintain, peace and security in the region. On a 5 point scale (5= Most important; 4=Important; 3= somewhat important; 2= Less important; and 1= Not important) respondents were asked to rank their opinion on this issue.



**Figure 18: Distribution of security challenges in the Upper West Region**

Source: Field data, 2007

The result as shown in Figure 18 indicate that unresolved chieftancy disputes pose the greatest security challenge in the Upper West region (mean=4.38). This is followed by rising crime rate (mean=3.94) and then increased unemployment and poverty in the region (mean=3.57). These security issues require urgent redress to propel the region on the path to sustainable development.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter summarises the findings that emerged from the study. It draws conclusions and makes recommendations to stakeholders in the promotion and preservation of development, security and peace in the Upper West Region.

#### **Summary**

Even though development has not been sustainable in all parts of Ghana this study attempts to examine the state of sustainable development in the Upper West Region as well as the problems and prospects in promoting sustainable development in the region.

In order to achieve these objectives, the study adopted a methodology in which both quantitative and qualitative analyses were used. The research methodology involved the use of primary and secondary sources of data including internal documents from the Ghana Police Service, the District Assemblies, policy papers, conference materials, journal articles and other publicly available information. The primary data were collected by open and close-ended questionnaires. The sampling frame for the study consisted of traditional leaders, heads of departments of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies

(MMDAs), Police officers, opinion leaders and the general public. In total, 164 persons were selected from the population. A multi-staged sampling method was employed in the selection of the respondents. Respondents for the study included 27 security personnel, 45 traditional rulers, opinion leaders and senior public servants and 92 members of the general public. Descriptive statistics was used to generate variables of interest after the data had been imputed into SPSS.

The main findings of the study are as follows:

- The majority of the respondents were happy about the creation of the Upper West Region because that has helped to speed up development in the region. However access to education was found to be low suggesting that many school going age children do not have access to quality education with serious negative effects on the human resource base of the present and future generation. To develop on a sustainable basis, both human and material resources should be developed in tandem but this appears missing in the case of development the Upper West region.
- Sound economic development has a direct bearing on the quality and access to health care but the study found that access to health care in the Upper West Region was found to be low with 62 percent of respondents describing it as poor.
- The pace of infrastructural development in the Upper West Region was largely described as deplorable by 56 percent of the sampled respondents. Thus, the Upper West Region lags behind in terms of sound socio-economic development.

- The Upper West Region faces numerous development challenges such as high levels of youth unemployment, poverty, illiteracy and poor infrastructure.
- On the sustainable use of the environment, the study found that while 59 percent of the respondents were aware of the need to protect water bodies in their catchment areas, this vital knowledge was missing among 80 percent of the sampled farmers. The implication is that the very people whose activities greatly impact on the environment were not enlightened on environmental protection. Security personnel were however found to be aware about the need to protect water bodies. This implies that law enforcement could help check the abuse of water bodies.
- The majority 59 percent of the respondents were familiar with District Assemblies bye-laws prohibiting farming along river banks implying that some knowledge on environmental law enforcement was available among residents in the Upper West Region.
- Half of the respondents were aware of the negative implications of environmental degradation on both the present and future generations. Factors such as poverty, outmoded farming practices and illiteracy was cited accounting for the continuous misuse of environmental resources.
- On suggestions on how to ensure sustainable use of natural resources in the region, 49 percent of the respondents believed that public education on environmental protection in addition to strict enforcement of

environmental bye-law would help safeguard environment from destruction.

- On the state of peace and security in the Upper West Region, 53 percent of the respondents had at least experienced conflict before and were in better position to assess the present state of security and how it could be improved to ensure sustainable development.
- Chieftaincy disputes were a major hindrance to sustainable peace and security in the region with about 17 chieftaincy disputes pending at the Regional House of Chiefs. This could be highly outrageous in a region with only 17 paramountcies.
- About 55 percent of the respondents felt that the Upper West Region was not peaceful enough. This has serious negative implication for sustainable socio-economic development as unstable region hardly attracts investment.
- Suggestions made to improve upon the security situation in the region included the need to resolve the numerous chieftaincy disputes, improved law enforcement and public education on conflict resolution, tolerance, and mutual co-existence among neighbours and between tribesmen or ethnic groups in the region.
- Respondents were divided on assessment of the public-police relationship. While half of the respondents reported a cordial relationship among the stakeholders, the other half also thought otherwise.



- The study found little direct involvement of the community in policing decisions and this inhibits effort building trust between the police and the general public.
- The public and the police did not enjoy maximum level of cooperation needed to maintain peace and security in the region. The public- police relationship was described variously as cordial (30%), somewhat (26%) tensed (22%) and poor (22%).
- The public did not divulge information to the police on incidence of crime and conflicts, thereby making criminal investigations very difficult. Poor community information flow was attributed to mistrust and fear of reprisals arising from revelation of informant identity.
- The Police Service in the region lacked the necessary logistics

## **Conclusions**

The main findings of the study have revealed that the Upper West Region faces serious challenges in the area of economic development, peace and security and infrastructural development. Stakeholders in the region have indicated slow pace of development in the region. Education and access to health care as well as social infrastructures- all fall below the national average. Poverty which is one of the greatest challenges to sustainable development is also found to prevalent in the Upper West Region. The security situation although relatively stable is immersed in numerous chieftaincy disputes, land conflicts and rising crime rate. The relationship between the public and police is also marked by suspicion as the

public fails to provide the police with vital information needed to maintain peace and security in the region. Civic education in the area of peace and security is low among the populace. Without the conscious cultivated involvement of the people, policing would be ineffective. The enforcement system cannot be everywhere. But the people are.

Furthermore, the environment has not been managed in a manner that can be described as sustainable. Farming community are adopting outmoded farming practices such as bush burning which engenders biodiversity, and are not aware about the implications of farming along river banks. Local authorities also appear not enforcing these by-laws on environmental protection. To develop in a sustainable manner, the core component of sustainable development (i.e. peace, security, sound economic development, environmental protection and human rights) should be addressed to ensure that the people of the Upper West Region have access to basic economic and social infrastructure such as needed education and health care to better appraise and ensure a sustainable balance between the environment, ecology, environmental protection, resource governance and economic prosperity.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the finding of the study, the following recommendation is worth considering;

- The study found that unemployment was high among the youth and no wonder high level of conflict in the region. As the literature review

found idle youth are usually recruit for conflicts that there should be a solid investment in employment generation for the youth as it is the best strategy for sustainable peace. This investment should be done in the form of youth employment and development schemes, such as skill training programmes etc. If the youth see hope in the future, it would be very difficult to sway them to enter into conflicts which they have no long term benefits.

- The study also found high level of illiteracy among the populace in the region and is recommended that the National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE), NGOs and other Civil Society groups should carry out civil education on environmental protection civic responsibilities and conflict prevention to guide the population to carry out their duties and defend their rights. This could be done through regional or district programmes of education rights and duties of the citizens.
- Policy makers should foster promotion of a permanent social and political dialogue among all actors including the National House of chiefs, the government and the non-governmental actors (civil society, private sector, religious groups, and mass media) order to solve the difficulties which arise in the enskinment of chiefs and traditional rulers in the region.
- The Central government and District Assemblies and NGOs should support the Police Service with more enlistment into the service and logistics such as Patrol Cars to make the service more responsive to

the need of the communities. The Regional Commander of Police has already initiated the establishment of such a Police Training School at Vieri, near Wechau (see Daily Graphic, pg 16. Saturday, June 24, 2006). Police commanders should be able to draw the necessary goodwill from the communities in order to obtain the needed assistance.

- Police Service should organize outreach programmes with the communities to explain police procedures, individual rights and responsibilities, and the law. This programme could be organized on community radio stations in the region and districts where the listening public would be given the opportunity to phone-in to express their opinions. Complaints made by individuals about police brutality should be thoroughly investigated and feedbacks given to the community or individuals concern. These practices could bring trust between the police and the community which they service.
- Community Policing Unit should be established in the region to improve police-community partnership. The Unit should be community oriented. This requires a radical shift in the mind-set as well as the transformation of the police institution; by a more humane and *people-orientated police service*. Such working partnership between the police and the community could prevent crime, arrest offenders, find solutions to recurring problems and to enhance the quality of life of the community (Rakgoadi, 1995).

The successes of the Domestic Violence Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) in a region of traditionally male-dominance on gender issues must be encouraged. Such advocacy programmes have helped to awaken the female component of the population in the socio-economic development of the area. Security in Africa would undeniably be served by placing people at the centre of the security equation and by finding non-violent solutions to disputes at sub-national, regional, and international levels. A safe and secured environment is a necessary condition for sustainable, poverty-reducing development; in this context, a peace-building approach to human security (Ball & Fayemi 2004).

Safety, security and order are the outcomes of well-considered policies and measures that enlist the support of the public in crime prevention and control. They are also products of winning attitudes that invoke and elicit public confidence in law enforcement and respect for the rule of law, and for the police officers. Although the Police have the foremost responsibility for security, it is obvious that the Police alone cannot effectively deal with the security problem. Police effectiveness depends largely on citizen support and co-operation. It is altruism that communities play a vital and dynamic role in the ability of the Police to solve crimes. Public assistance is essential to effective policing in a democratic society. It is imperative therefore that, those measures are taken to embark upon a strategy that would sensitise the people into the realisation that they are active partners.

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## APPENDIX 1

### QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SECURITY PERSONNEL

#### SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHICS

##### 1. Age

Below 20    21 – 31

31-40    41-50

51-60    Above 60

##### 2. Sex

Male

Female

##### 3. Marital status

Married

Single

Widow/widower

##### 4. Level of education

No education

Basic education

Secondary education

Tertiary education

5. Occupation

- Farming
- Self-employed
- Public sector (Security)
- Public sector (Non security)

6. How many years have stayed in the region?

- Less than 1
- 1 – 5 years
- 6 – 10 years
- 11 – 15 years
- 16 – 20 years
- above 20 years

7. Do you come from the region?

- Yes
- No

9. What are the Challenges to Sustainable Economic Development in the UWR?

- High level of youth unemployment
- Poor infrastructural development
- Poverty
- Illiteracy

Others

10. What do you think should be done to ensure sustainable economic development in the Upper west Region?

.....  
.....

SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY

11. Do you know that the Region was carved out of the former Upper Region?

Yes

No

12. What is your opinion about the impact of the UWR on development in the region?

Positive Impact

No Impact

Negative Impact

No Idea

13. What is your perception about the resource allocation to the region?

Very good

Relatively better

Bad

Worse

14. How would you describe the Rate of Children Access to Education in the region

High

Average

Low

15. How would you describe the rate of access to health care in your region?

Very good

Good

Average

Poor

15. How would you describe the state of basic infrastructure in the region?

Deplorable

Average

Satisfactory

16. What in your opinion are the major challenges to attaining sustainable socio-economic development?

ITEMS	Ranking				
	1	2	3	4	5
Increased unemployment and poverty					
Rising religious conflicts					
Rising crime rates					
Unresolved chieftaincy disputes					
Others					

17. What do you suggest should be done to improve the socio-economic livelihood of the people in the region?

.....

.....

**SECTION 3: PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

18. Are you aware of the need to protect water bodies in the region?

Yes

No

19. The grass land are burnt almost every year, are you aware of its negative environmental impact?       Yes    No

20. Are you aware of the by- laws that banned the activities of individuals who burns the environment?



Yes

No

21. Do you usually follow this by laws?

Yes

No

If no why

22. What is your impression about the state of environmental protection in your district?

Very Poor

Encouraging

Very high

23. The way we are depleting our natural resources (i.e. land and vegetation) our children and grand children would have nothing to live on? To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Strongly Disagree

24. If you ticked question 1 or 2 above, what do you think accounts for the continuous degradation of the environment despite awareness of its implication?

.....  
 .....

25. What do you think should be done to ensure that the environment is protected for the future generation? (Please use the ranking provided and notes that a rank of 5 means the most important factor, followed by 4, 3, 2 and 1 (in that order) as the least important. Tick against each option listed).

ITEMS	Ranking				
	1	2	3	4	5
Strict enforcement of environmental protection by-laws and regulations					
Improved public education on environmental conservation and resource use.					
Education on the adoption of improved method of farming					
Others ( please specify					

26. What do you think should be done to protect the environment from degradation?

[ ] Strict Protection of Environmental Protection by-laws

- Improve public education on environmental protection and resources
- Education on the adoption of improved method of farming
- Creating of Job opportunities

#### SECTION 4: PEACE AND SECURITY

27. Have you experience conflict in your neighbourhood/district in the last 10 years?

- Yes
- No

28. What is the nature of conflict / insecurity do you usually experienced?

- Land dispute
- Chieftaincy dispute
- Crime
- Cross Border crime
- Human Right Violations& Human trafficking
- Others

29. How would you describe the state of security in your neighbourhood or district?

- Relatively peaceful
- Tensed Upsurge in conflict/violence
- Highly in secure

[ ] Others

30. What do you think should be done to improve the security of your neighbourhood or region? (Please use the ranking provided and notes that a rank of 5 means the most important factor, followed by 4, 3, 2 and 1 (in that order) as the least important. Tick against each option listed).

ITEMS	RANKING				
	1	2	3	4	5
Resolution of Chieftaincy Disputes					
Improved Law Enforcement in the region					
Improved Civic Education on tolerance and peaceful co-existence					
Introduction of employment programmes for the youth to disengage them from being used to ferment conflict.					
Reform in the land tenure system					
Others ( please specify					

#### POLICE – PUBLIC RELATIONS

*(FOR SECURITY PERSONNEL ONLY)*

31. How regular does the police hierarchy involve the general public and key stakeholders in policing decisions?

[ ] Very regularly

- Regularly
- Irregularly
- Rarely
- Not at all

32. How would you describe public relationship with the police service?

- Cordial
- Somewhat cordial
- Tensed
- Poor

33. How would you describe the rate at which the public volunteer information for the police to aid their investigations?

- Very regularly
- Regularly
- Rarely
- Not at all

34. What in your opinion accounts for this level of volunteerism from the public?

- Lack of trust between the police the public
- Fear of victimization if found out by the community
- Lack of public education on the importance of volunteering information

35. What common complaint do you usually receive from the public against police personnel?

- Brutalization
- Extortion
- Unlawful arrest
- Others

36. What major problems confront the police in carrying out their daily operations? (Please use the ranking provided and notes that a rank of 5 means the most important factor, followed by 4, 3, 2 and 1 (in that order) as the least important. Tick against each option listed).

ITEMS	Ranking				
	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of logistics/equipments					
Inadequate police personnel					
Uncooperative police public					
Low morale of colleagues					
Others (please specify)					

37. What security challenge faces the police service in maintaining peace in the Upper West region?

- unresolved chieftaincy dispute

- Rising crime rate
- Rising religious conflicts
- Increased unemployment and poverty in the region
- Other (please state)

38. How would you describe the prospect of sustainable peace and security in the upper West Region?

- Very bright
- Bright
- Gloomy

39. What in your opinion should be done to ensure smooth policing in your operational area?(Please use the ranking provided and notes that a rank of 5 means the most important factor, followed by 4, 3, 2 and 1 (in that order) as the least important. Tick against each option listed).

ITEMS	Ranking				
	1	2	3	4	5
Intensify public education about civic responsibility and the law					
The need to develop trust among the police and public					

Logistical support from Assemblies to augment national supplies					
Improve the number of police personnel					
Establish community watchdog groups to collaborate with the police					
Others (please specify)					



## APPENDIX 2

### QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NON SECURITY STAKEHOLDERS

#### SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHICS

1. Age

Below 20  21 – 31

31-40  41-50

51-60  Above 60

2. Sex

Male

Female

3. Marital status

Married

Single

Widow/widower

4. Level of education

No education

Basic education

Secondary education

Tertiary education

5. Occupation

- Farming
- Self-employed
- Public sector (Security)
- Public sector (Non security)

6. How many years have stayed in the region?

- Less than 1
- 1 – 5 years
- 6 – 10 years
- 11 – 15 years
- 16 – 20 years
- above 20 years

7. Do you come from the region?

- Yes
- No

9. What are the Challenges to Sustainable Economic Development in the Upper West Region?

- High level of youth unemployment
- Poor infrastructural development
- Poverty

Illiteracy

Others

10. What do you think should be done to ensure sustainable economic development in the Upper west Region?

.....  
.....

**SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY**

12. Do you know that the Region was carved out of the former Upper Region?

Yes

No

12. What is your opinion about the impact of the Upper West Region on development in the region?

Positive Impact

No Impact

Negative Impact

No Idea

26. What is your perception about the resource allocation to the region?

Very good

Relatively better

Bad

Worse

27. How would you describe the Rate of Children Access to Education in the region

High

Average

Low

15. How would you describe the rate of access to health care in your region?

Very good

Good

Average

Poor

28. How would you describe the state of basic infrastructure in the region?

Deplorable

Average

Satisfactory

29. What in your opinion are the major challenges to attaining sustainable socio-economic development?

	Ranking
--	---------

ITEMS	1	2	3	4	5
Increased unemployment and poverty					
Rising religious conflicts					
Rising crime rates					
Unresolved chieftaincy disputes					
Others					

30. What do you suggest should be done to improve the socio-economic livelihood of the people in the region?

.....

.....

**SECTION 3: PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

31. Are you aware of the need to protect water bodies in the region?

Yes

No

32. The grass land are burnt almost every year, are you aware of its negative environmental impact?       Yes    No

33. Are you aware of the by- laws that banned the activities of individuals who burns the environment?

Yes

No

34. Do you usually follow this by laws?

Yes

No

If no why

35. What is your impression about the state of environmental protection in your district?

Very Poor

Encouraging

Very high

36. The way we are depleting our natural resources (i.e. land and vegetation) our children and grand children would have nothing to live on? To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Strongly Disagree

37. If you ticked question 1 or 2 above, what do you think accounts for the continuous degradation of the environment despite awareness of its implication?

.....

.....

38. What do you think should be done to ensure that the environment is protected for the future generation? (Please use the ranking provided and notes that a rank of 5 means the most important factor, followed by 4, 3, 2 and 1 (in that order) as the least important. Tick against each option listed).

ITEMS	Ranking				
	1	2	3	4	5
Strict enforcement of environmental protection by-laws and regulations					
Improved public education on environmental conservation and resource use.					
Education on the adoption of improved method of farming					
Others ( please specify					

26. What do you think should be done to protect the environment from degradation?

- Strict Protection of Environmental Protection by-laws
- Improve public education on environmental protection and resources
- Education on the adoption of improved method of farming
- Creating of Job opportunities

#### SECTION 4: PEACE AND SECURITY

27. Have you experience conflict in your neighbourhood/district in the last 10 years?

Yes

No

28. What is the nature of conflict / insecurity do you usually experienced?

Land dispute

Chieftaincy dispute

Crime

Cross Border crime

Human Right Violations& Human trafficking

Others

29. How would you describe the state of security in your neighbourhood or district?

Relatively peaceful

Tensed Upsurge in conflict/violence

Highly in secure

Others



31. What do you think should be done to improve the security of your neighbourhood or region? (Please use the ranking provided and notes that a rank of 5 means the most important factor, followed by 4, 3, 2 and 1 (in that order) as the least important. Tick against each option listed).

ITEMS	RANKING				
	1	2	3	4	5
Resolution of Chieftaincy Disputes					
Improved Law Enforcement in the region					
Improved Civic Education on tolerance and peaceful co-existence					
Introduction of employment programmes for the youth to disengage them from being used to ferment conflict.					
Reform in the land tenure system					
Others ( please specify					

### APPENDIX 3

#### SISSALA CULTURAL TROUPE PERFORMANCE AT NAFAC 2005

##### AT WA\*



Participant tearing and devouring raw dog killed in the procession!

\*Held at Wa the Upper West capital in 2006

Source: Fieldwork, 2007