

# *THE VOLTA REGION*

## *Republic of Ghana*

*A Guide to Tourists and Investors*



*September, 2011*



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## **Foreword**

The Volta Region and the Volta Basin are a treasure-trove of various important minerals and other natural resources, including gold, diamonds, copper, lead, iron ore, and oil and gas.

The region also has fertile agricultural lands, enormous potentials for large-scale fish farming, large deposits of clay for brick and ceramics production, extensive salt deposits along the coast, and the largest variety of tourist attractions.

The friendly and peace-loving people of the region have made it one of the most peaceful places in Ghana, and indeed in the entire universe. It is also a nature-loving tourist's haven.

We seek to present, through this publication, the hidden natural treasures of the region, and to expose its tourist attractions and investment potentials.

We aim to encourage entrepreneurs and businessmen and women from all over the world to take advantage of the favourable investment environment, the promising natural resource sector and improved infrastructural network, to invest in the Volta Region.

***THE VOLTA REGION***

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Building a prosperous and harmonious region is the mission of the Volta Region Development Agency. We hope this modest publication will give prospective visitors and investors a reasonable appreciation of the land, its natural resources, and its people.

The information presented is compiled from various sources, and we are grateful to those whose work we have benefitted from.

Togbe Afede XIV

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## GHANA FACT SHEET

<b>Land Area:</b>	230.020 sq km
<b>Population:</b>	24.22 million
<b>Capital:</b>	Accra
<b>Regions:</b>	Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Volta, and Western Region
<b>Main Cities:</b>	Accra, Kumasi, Tamale, Tema, Takoradi, Cape Coast, Koforidua, Sunyani, Obuasi and Ho
<b>International Airport:</b>	Kotoka International Airport (KIA)
<b>Main Ports:</b>	akoradi and Tema
<b>Lowest Point:</b>	Atlantic Ocean 0 m
<b>Highest Point:</b>	Mount Afadjato 880 m
<b>Governing System:</b>	Constitutional democracy
<b>Ethnic Divisions:</b>	Akan 49.1% Mole – Dagomba 16.5% Ewes 12.7% Ga – Dangme 8% Non-Ghanaian 3.9%
<b>Official Language:</b>	English
<b>Languages:</b>	Twi, Mole-Dagbani, Ewe, and Ga
<b>Religion:</b>	Christians 69% Traditional 8.5% Muslim 15.6% Other 6.9%
<b>Fiscal Year:</b>	Calendar Year
<b>Time:</b>	GMT
<b>Currency:</b>	US \$1 = GH₵ 1.04 (Ghana Cedis)
<b>Electricity:</b>	Electrical current is 220 volts, 50 Hz. Both round and flat three-pronged plugs are most commonly used.



## BASIC COUNTRY ECONOMIC DATA

**Gross Domestic Product – GDP:** US\$ 37.481 billion

*(2010 estimate)*

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity):** US\$71.216 billion of International dollars *(2010 estimate)*

**Real GDP growth:**

2008	2009	2010	2011*
7.2%	4.7%	5.7%	13.7%

*\*Estimate*

**GDP per capita - current prices:** US\$ 1,542 *(2010 estimate)*

**GDP per capita – PPP:** US\$2,930 International Dollars

*(2010 estimate)*

**GDP (PPP) - share of world total:**

1980	1990	2000	2010	2015**
0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.08%	0.1%

*\*\*Forecast*

**GDP - composition by sector**

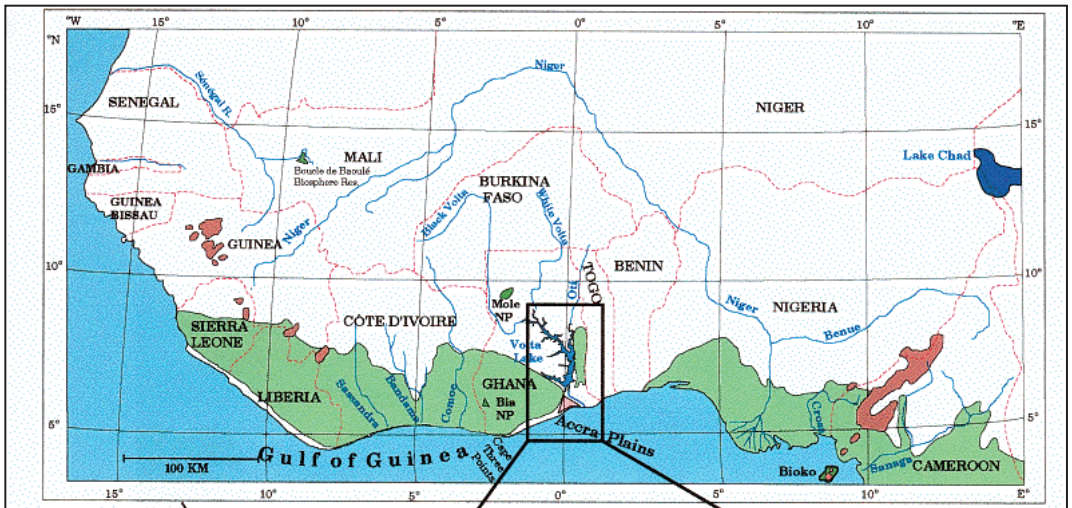
- agriculture: 29.9%
- industry: 18.6%
- services: 51.4% *(2010 estimate)*

**Inflation:**

2008	2009	2010	2011***
16.5%	19.3%	10.7%	8.7%

*(31 July 2011 estimate)*

**International Reserves:** US\$ 4.629 billion *(31 July 2011 estimate)*



Upper Guinea Forest Block    Dahomey Gap    Lower Guinea Forest Block

**West Africa**

- Guinea-Congolian rainforest
- Elevation > 1000 m asl

**Maps showing Study Area and Sampling Sites in Ghana.**

**Volta Region**

- Forest Reserves
- Water Bodies
- Previous Study Area
- Field Sites in the Volta Region
- \* Possible Additional Sites*
- Towns

(Map based on Survey of Ghana Physical Map, 1969; Road Map of Ghana, 7th ed., 1986; and Ghana, ITM Map 960, 1996).



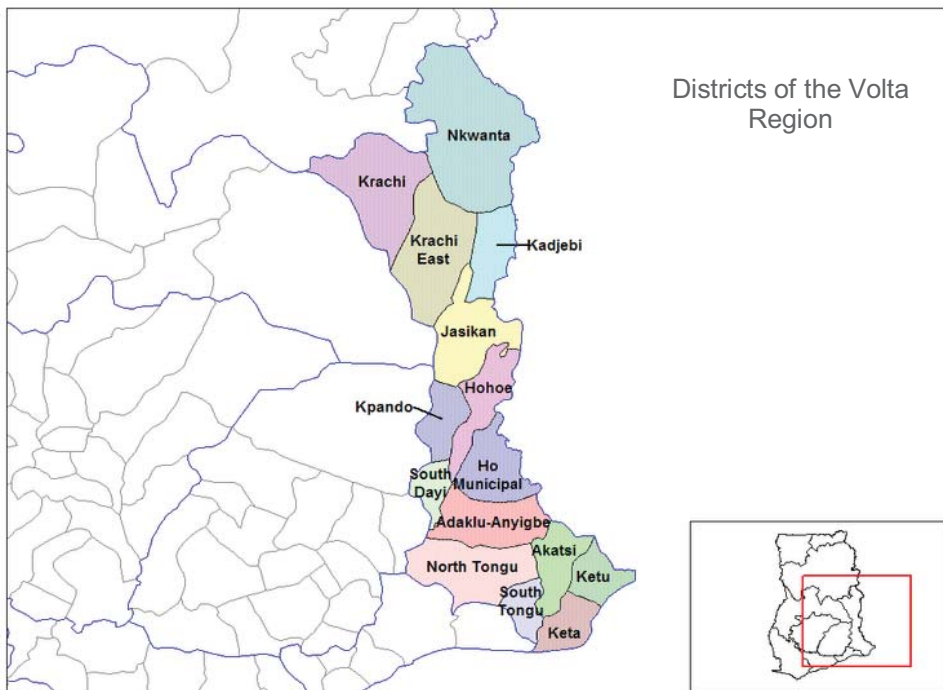
West Africa, showing Volta Region and Lake



## **INTRODUCTION**

The Volta Region of Ghana covers an area of 20,570 square kilometers representing 8.6% of Ghana, lying to the east of the Volta Lake, along the southern half of the eastern border of Ghana, which it shares with the Republic of Togo. Greater Accra, Eastern and Brong Ahafo regions share boundaries with it on the west, while it is bordered on the north by the Northern Region and on the south by the Gulf of Guinea.

The region stretches from the coastal plains on the Atlantic coast right up to the arid lands of the north, and climatic conditions can vary tremendously.

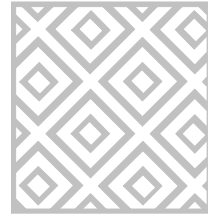


From the coastal plains, fringed by sun-dappled beaches and mangrove swamps, through moist deciduous rain forests in the central belt, where Mt. Afadjato at 885m is the highest point in Ghana, to the arid savannah of northern Ghana, you can experience almost every tropical climate in West Africa.

The most easterly region of Ghana, the Region is an area of extraordinary scenic beauty. The rolling hills and valleys, the rocky outcrops overlooking Lake Volta, and lagoons, rivers and waterfalls make it one of nature's most attractive gifts to Ghana.



**Mt. Afadjato at 885m is the highest point in Ghana**



**Tagbo Falls – near Liati Wote  
It flows from the Ghana-Togo mountain range.**





## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The region was formed by the union of the former British Togoland, which was part of the German protectorate of Togoland, and the south eastern part of the Gold Coast, east of the Volta River. It was administered as part of the Gold Coast by the British as Trans Volta Togoland. Before Ghana's independence, a plebiscite held on 9th May, 1956 saw the territory decide to join Ghana at independence.

Thus, with the exception of the most southern part, most of the region was part of the German colony of Togoland. The most southern part, which was first colonized by the Danes and later on transferred to the British, was administered as part of the Gold Coast, now Ghana.

After the defeat of the Germans in World War I, the German colony of Togoland was partitioned. One portion was placed under the protectorate of Britain and became known as the British



**British Togoland shown in pale green**

Togoland. The other, under French protectorate, became the French Togoland, now the Republic of Togo. Both territories were under the umbrella and supervision of the Trusteeship Council of the League of Nations, now the United Nations (UN).

While Togoland under French Trusteeship was administered by its own Governor appointed by the French, the British protectorate of Togoland, later to be known as the Trans-Volta Togoland (TVT), and then as the Volta Region (VR), was administered by the Governor of the Gold Coast who reported on the British protectorate directly to the Trusteeship Council of the League of Nations.

In 1954, the U.N sent a Visiting Team to the British Togoland. This team recommended a plebiscite to be held in 1956 to decide on the wishes of the people on the issues of whether the Trust Territory should be integrated into, or secede from, the Gold Coast.

The result of the plebiscite was not decisive, with majority of the people of the southern parts voting against integration, while majority of the people of the northern parts voted for integration.

However, when it became clear that the Gold Coast was to become independent in 1957, the British Government formally informed the Trusteeship Council that it would not be possible for Britain to administer the British Protectorate, then the Trans-Volta Togoland (TVT), separately, after the Gold Coast became independent. The British Government therefore recommended that the Trans-Volta Togoland be integrated into the Gold Coast.

This suggestion did not go down well with a portion of the people, particularly the Ewe speaking, who opted in the plebiscite to join the French Togo. However, after independence, the Parliament of Ghana adopted a resolution to merge and integrate the Trans-Volta Togoland with Ghana, under the name Volta Region.



## **VEGETATION, CLIMATE & PHYSICAL FEATURES**

### **Vegetation**

The region has a length of about 500 kilometres, stretching from the south to the north. It encompasses most of the vegetation zones found in the country, that is, the coastal grassland and mangrove swamps, replete with sandy beaches, the Guinea savannah through moist semi deciduous forests in the central highland areas, to the undulating sahel-savannah and the mountainous wooded savannah in the north.

### **Climate**

As in all other parts of the country, the Volta Region has a tropical climate, characterised by moderate temperatures, 21-32° Celsius (70 - 90°F) for most of the year. The region has two rainfall regimes in the year, the first; from March to July and the second from mid- August to October. Rainfall figures, which vary greatly throughout the region, are highest in the central highland areas and in the forest zone; they are lowest in the sahel-savannah zone in the north of the region. The maximum average annual rainfall figure is 2,103mm, and the minimum is 1,168mm. More than half of the land area of the region falls within the Volta River Basin, with the Volta Lake draining a substantial portion of the region.

### **Physical Features**

The region's mountains form part of the Togo Range, which stretches from parts of the Ashanti and Eastern Regions into the

Republic of Togo. The highest mountain in Ghana, Mount Afadzato (Avadzeto), located in the Hohoe District, is part of this range. This mountain, together with several picturesque physical features such as the Vli waterfalls, near Mountain Gemi (Amedzofe), and the monkey sanctuary in Tafi (Hohoe district), are some of the region's tourist attractions.

The River Volta and the Lake Volta are also important physical features of the region.



**Adomi Bridge – The gate to Volta Region**





## **DEMOGRAPHY**

The region's population in 2010 was 1,878,316. This implies an increase of about 15% over the 2000 count of 1,635,421.

The age structure of the population indicates that all the districts of the region have a young population, typical of most developing countries.

The people of Volta Region are part of the larger Ghanaian population with just about every ethnic/language group represented in the region. Eight major ethnic groups are represented in the region and about 62 sub-groups speak 56 dialects.

The largest ethnic group in the region is the Ewe people who make up 68.5% of the region's population. They consist of several sub groups. Other major ethnicities include the Guan people (9.2%) made up of over 18 sub groups and the Akan people (8.5%) with over 19 sub-groups. The fourth largest group is the Gurma in the north, forming 6.5% of the region's population. Also present in this region are the Ga-Dangme, Mole-Dagbon, Grusi and the Mande-Busanga.

Ho, the regional capital's population has nearly quadrupled since 1970, from 24,191 to nearly 100,000 currently. Aflao, the entry point between Ghana and Togo, has experienced one of the highest increases in population in the region over the past 40 years. Other fast growing urban localities in the region include Hohoe (district capital), Anloga, Akatsi district capital Dzodze (border town), Kpassa, (major market) Kpandu (district capital), Dambai (due to Volta Lake transport) and Juapong (textile factory).

Ho has grown due to its status as the main administrative town in the region in addition to being an important market and educational town. The Kete Krachi district has also experienced a rapid growth in urban population as its hitherto sparsely populated lands attracted migrants, especially into yam cultivation, fishing and related commercial activities along the Volta Lake.



**Ho Station**



## **SOCIAL STRUCTURE & TRADITIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

Christians constitute 67.2 per cent of the religious groups in the region; adherents of Traditional religion account for 21.8 per cent and Moslems, 5.0 per cent. Those who do not practise any religion constitute 5.3 per cent while all other smaller religious groups make up 0.7 per cent.

While the Ewe, Guan and the Akan are mostly Christians, majority of the Hausa, Kyamba, Kotokoli, Kokomba, Nanumba and Gurma, particularly in the northern districts, are Moslems.

Festivals, dances and other ceremonies reflect the rich diversity of history and culture of the ethnic life in the region.

The people of the region are organized under chiefs at the lineage and settlement levels. A lineage comprises extended families that trace their genealogy to the same ancestor. The extended families also have heads who are most often the oldest male. Generally, ownership of property is passed on by patrilineal inheritance. However, some lineages in the Kadjebi District and a few in the Jasikan District are of the Akan lineage, and practice matrilineal inheritance.



**Togbe Afede XIV  
Paramount Chief of  
Asogli State**

The traditional administration is a hierarchical system comprising of area/divisional councils, traditional councils and the Volta Region House of Chiefs. The Traditional Council is composed of several area/divisional councils.

The Volta Regional House of Chiefs, like similar institutions in the other regions, was established by statute in 1958. The House consists of 15 paramount chiefs (in charge of 15 Traditional Councils) and 17 rotating members (from 17 groupings) bringing the total membership to 32.

Basically, the traditional authorities administer stool lands, holding them in trust for the people, and arrange the celebration of traditional festivals. They are also the custodians of traditional beliefs and customs, passed on from one generation to another. The traditional authorities also have courts which adjudicate on matters relating to stool lands, lineage and family lands, chieftaincy title disputes, violations of traditions and disputes between localities, lineages, families and individuals.





## **POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION**

The structure of the decentralized administrative system is made up of the Regional Coordinating Council, municipal/district assemblies, and urban and town/area councils.

The Regional Co-ordinating Council (RCC) comprises the Regional Minister who is the overall political head of the region, his Deputy, representatives of the Volta Region House of Chiefs, the Municipal/District Chief Executives of the region, the Presiding Members of the 18 Districts Assemblies and representatives of the various decentralized Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAS). The RCC is headed by the Regional Coordinating Director, who acts as the Secretary, and has the overall responsibility for the local government administration of the region.

The assemblies exercise power and administrative authority in the municipality or district, provide guidance, give direction to, and supervise all other administrative authorities in the municipality or district.

The Municipal/District Chief Executive (DCE) is responsible for the day-to-day executive and administrative functions of the assembly and is the chief representative of the Central Government in the municipality/district. The Municipal/District Co-ordinating Director (DCD), who heads the municipal/district bureaucracy and is Secretary to the Assembly, assists the Chief Executive.

The assemblies have urban, town and area councils which are supported by unit committees.

The region has had 22 electoral constituencies, and so is represented in the national parliament by 22 elected parliamentarians.





## TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

The Volta Region is one of the most beautiful parts of Ghana. The wonderful climate and the hospitable people make the Volta Region a wonderful place to live.

A big part of the Region is covered with tropical forest and it has many hills and mountains, while the rest of country is mostly flat. The different ecological zones of the Region offer various tourist attractions ranging from golden sandy beaches, various water bodies, caves, waterfalls, as well as industrial investment opportunities.

The region contains the Volta Lake, which is one of the largest artificial lakes in the world, mount Afadjato, which is the highest point in Ghana, and the Keta lagoon, which is the lowest.

### **The Waterfalls of the Volta Region**

Although some may be seasonal, these waterfalls are located in attractive wooded or mountain settings.



(left and above) Wli Falls

Wli Falls – 20km from Hohoe, in the Wli Natural Reserve. This waterfall is becoming very popular in

the West African sub-region. It is perennial, as water cascades throughout the year. It is located at the edge of the Agumatsa Wildlife Sanctuary, which has hundreds of fruit bats and a few monkeys and antelopes.

This waterfall, which consists of a series of four falls and two cascades descending an amazing 600m height, is one of the perennial falls in Ghana open to visitors throughout the year.



**Gbadzeme Falls**

To get to the base of the falls from Wli-Agorviefe one has to walk on a path which crosses the meandering Agumatasa River eleven (11) times on locally made log bridges. At the base of the falls one will enjoy the beauty of nature in a cool microclimate.

The falls also play an important part in the cultural life of the communities around it. The people regard it as a fetish, and there is a belief among the natives that it has the power of curing barrenness in women.

Tagbo Falls – near Liati Wote. This waterfall is incredibly beautiful. It flows from the Ghana-Togo mountain range. It is covered by green vegetation and has caves forming at the sides. It does not have as big a plunge pool as the Wli Falls, but is beautiful in its own way.

*Others include:* Tsatsadu Falls – at Alavanyo, 10km from Hohoe; Aflambo Falls - near Leklebi Agbesia; Todome Falls – Likpe Todome; and Gbadzeme Falls – Amedzofe.

## **Mountains**

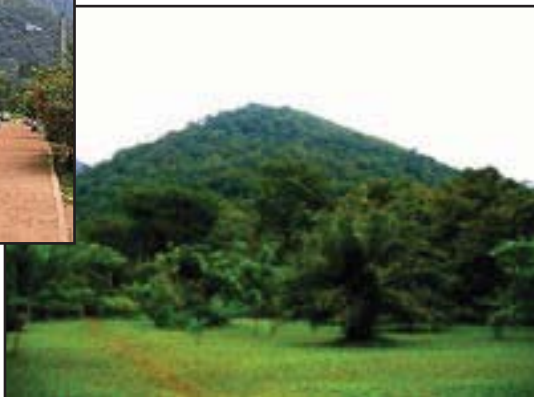
Mount Afadzato – Mt. Afadzato is the highest mountain in Ghana, at an altitude of 880 m (2900 ft). The mountain is located in the Agumatsa Range near the villages of Liati Wote and Gbledi, in the Volta Region of Ghana at the border with Togo.



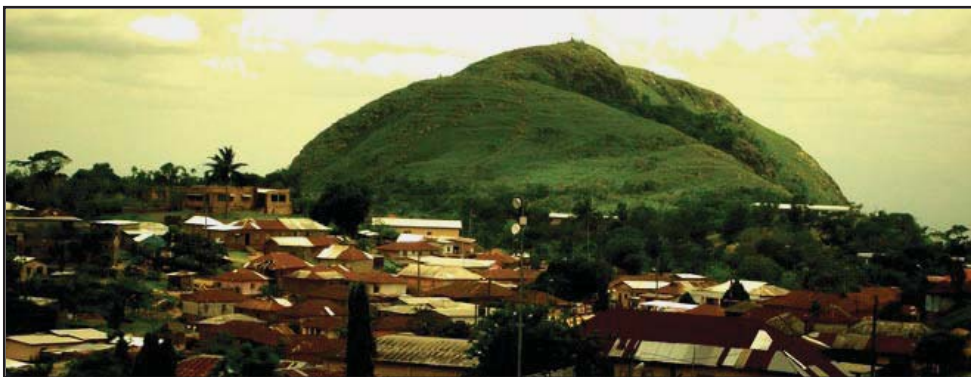
Mount Gemi – At a height of 840m, Mt. Gemi is the second highest mountain in Ghana. The mountain attracts climbers of all ages. From the peak, one is rewarded with spectacular views of the surrounding villages, River Dayi flood plain and the Volta Lake including the Afram Plains in a bird's eye view.



**(left) Mount Afadjato as seen from the village of Liati**



**(right) Mount Afadjato and the surrounding community-owned nature reserve**



**A View of the Majestic Mount Gemi**

Amedzofe, where Mount Gemi is located, has been a unique tourist attraction since the German Missionaries arrived in 1879. The topography of Amedzofe coupled with its natural beauty of moun-

tains, valleys, waterfalls and cool climate has made the place a unique tourist destination for both foreign and indigenous Tourist over the years.

Adaklu Mountain -Adaklu is a traditional area that includes 48 vil-lages. The mountain is located 12 km south of Ho. The hike up and down the mountain takes between 2-4 hours.



**Visitors to Adaklu Mountain during the annual Asogli Yam Festival health walk**

### **Wildlife & Nature Reserves**

#### Kyabobo National Park

Every available evidence points to the fact that the Nkwanta district is very rich in game and wildlife. There are heads, skins and bones of animal that have been killed by hunters, especially at Kue. The heads include those of the buffalo, various types of monkeys, hyena, red-river hog and a variety of birds. Consequently, a national park, Kyabobo National Park, has been created near Kwanta in the foothill of Mt. Dibobo, on the border with Togo.

It is noteworthy that the Togolese have a national park at the other side of the Ghana-Togo ranges called Parc National de Fazao.

#### Tafi Monkey Village

Nestled in the heart of the region, 43km south of Hohoe, some 5km from the Avatime hills, and less than 200km north of Accra, lies the beautiful village of Tafi Atome and its sacred monkey sanctuaries.

Tafi Atome is surrounded by an indigenous tropical forest with very high floral concentration. In this forest, one could find the endangered, playful and rather sacred “true” Mona Monkeys.

Believing the monkeys to be messengers to the gods and their protectors, the chiefs and people of Tafi have been protecting them for the past 200 years. Hundreds of species of monkeys, including the nearly extinct Mona, make the dense tropical



**A Mona monkey and her baby look down on tourists from the trees**

forest around Tafi Atome their home. The monkeys are friendly and playful and venture into the village daily. Tradition does not permit people to kill or harm them.

#### Avi-Fauna of the Kadjebi District

There are several bird species in the Kadjebi District. These include waver birds, egrets, and even parrots. Most of them can be seen in the rice fields.

#### Coastal Ramsar Sites - Keta Lagoon

The Keta Lagoon Ramsar Site is 1200km<sup>2</sup> including the eastern bank of the Volta River and the Togo border. The surface area of the principal lagoon and the seasonal mud flats is over 300km<sup>2</sup>. This important wetland is a breeding ground for migratory birds.

The lagoon supports the largest inland fisheries within the coastal zone of Ghana. Other principal economic activities within the site are shallot farming through irrigated agriculture, and mat, hat and fan weaving industry from reeds found along the banks of the lagoon. These products earn the natives a lot of income. Some of the mats are exported to neighbouring Togo.

### Kalakpa Resource Reserve

Located about 15km from Ho, the Kalakpa Resource Reserve has increasing species of migratory and indigenous birds life, buck, buffalo and monkeys.

Kalakpa, with its administrative headquarters at Abtia-Kloe in the Ho district of the Volta Region, has an area of about 325km<sup>2</sup>. The reserve is located between the Abutia and Adaku traditional areas in the typical Guinea savanna vegetation zone. It has a spectacular combination of forests on the hills found in the middle of the reserve and along rivers and grass on the plains of the reserve. It is one of the few places in the region where indigenous animals associated with the vegetation can still be found.

Prior to the establishment of the reserve, the area used to be the sport hunting grounds for expatriates, mainly Italians, Greeks and Germans resident in Accra, Akosombo and Tema.

The reserve abounds with the following animals; the red-riverhog, buffalo, bushbuck, waterbuck, kob, oribi, black duiker, grey duiker and red flanked duiker. The common monkeys found are the baboon, patas monkey, green monkey, spot-nosed monkey. The black and white colobus is present but rare. Other small mammals include rodents like the giant rat, grasscutter, crested porcupine and pangolin. Bird fauna in the reserve is also rich.

Apart from the rich wildlife diversity of the reserve, other sites of attraction, which will be useful to tourists, include, the scenic beauty of the numerous hills in the reserve (Zitoe, Koffitoe, Kadanga etc.) and the higher density and abundance of borassus palm in the reserve. Kadanga, one of the hills, is believed to be the ancestral home of the people of Abutia.

There are no roads in the reserve; therefore only foot safaris can be done. Small scale camping can be permitted at Zitoe and Agordeke camps with one's own camping gear.

## **Agumatsa Wildlife Sanctuary**

Agumatsa Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Hohoe district of the Volta Region on the Togo-Buem ranges.

The area boasts of the most spectacular geographical feature in the district. An hour's walk through cool shades of trees will lead you to Ghana's highest waterfalls, the Wli Falls. The beauty of the falls is enhanced not only by the towering face of the gorge, but most impressively by the several thousands of fruit bats clinging to its sides.

In addition the forest, butterflies of varied colours and other wild animals, including monkeys and antelopes, make the area significant for conservation.

## **Volta Estuary**

The estuary is an area of great scenic beauty with river and ocean beaches, and picnic spots shaded by palm trees. The sand bars are the nesting grounds for sea birds, and endangered species of twitter are still found here.

## **Grottos and Caves**

In the limestone hills, the grottos and caves are dramatic. Not to be missed are:

1. The ancestral caves of Likpe – 14km form Hohoe
2. The grottos of Kpando – Aghehoe and Aziavi
3. The caves of Nyagbo and Logba
4. Caves and iron mine workings – Akpafu



**Likpe ancestral caves**



## Historic Sites

The relics of European coastal forts and other structures still remain, while further north, vestiges of the German colonial era are unmistakable. Important landmarks include:

- Fort Prinzenstein, Keta
- Cape St Paul Lighthouse, Woe
- German colonial buildings at Amedzofe, Ho, Kpando and Kpedze

## Cultural Festivals

There are important festivals to complement the beautiful scenery in the Region. Indeed, the region is famous for its festivals and cultural ceremonies, of which the annual Yam Festival of the Asogli people and the Hogbetsotso of the Anlo people are the most famous.

Gbaiduko Za is celebrated by the people of Hohoe/Peki. Other cultural festivals include the rice festival of Likpe and Avatime, and Sasadu festival of Saviefe, Akrofu, Sovie and Alavanyo.

The festivals and ceremonies reflect the rich diversity of history and culture of tribal life in the region. There are also extensive community and eco-tourism and heritage sites in the region which provide opportunities for eco-tourism activities, such as flora and fauna viewing and scientific research.



**Procession of Chiefs and Queens during the Asogli Yam Festival, Ho**





## **ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

### **Economic Activities**

Agriculture/Hunting/Forestry remains the largest industry in the region and in the districts, except Keta and Krachi districts where fishing is the main and the second industry, respectively.

More than 70% of the population aged 15 years and above are economically active. About 60% are in agriculture and related occupations. Others are in production, transport and equipment operation, sales work, professional, technical and related work, and services.

Significant proportions (about 15%) of the economically active are employed in wholesale and retail trade. Manufacturing, mainly agro-processing, is also important in the industrial sector of the region, employing about 11% of the population.

Majority of the people in the region are self-employed. Almost every four out of five working people are self-employed. The private informal sector engages eight out of every 10 working people, while the private sector, as a whole, employs nine out of every 10 people.

The region has substantial agricultural resources, which include large expanses of land of which an estimated 1,028,500 hectares are suitable for general agriculture (i.e. cultivation of crops and rearing of animals). The diverse ecology allows the cultivation of a wide variety of crops including tree crops, food crops, fruits and vegetables.

The large tracts of fertile land support the cultivation of non-traditional crops like black pepper, cashew nuts, sunflowers, gin-

ger, pineapple, pawpaw and mangoes, for export, and such staples as maize, cassava, banana, pineapple, mango, pear, orange, yam, cocoa-yam, plantain, rice, sorghum, etc. Teak is also important, while there is renewed interest in cocoa and coffee among local farmers.

Shallot, which is exported to many parts of West Africa, is cultivated on a large scale by irrigation, using ground water and borehole.

Currently only 29.0 per cent of the total arable land of the region is under cultivation. Nkwanta and Krachi Districts in particular, have good agricultural land, and the Volta Dam offers enormous potential for irrigation.

Animal rearing ranks next to food crop production in the region, with a large number of cattle, sheep and goats.

Apart from agriculture and manufacturing, there are activities in several other industries like mining (kaolin) and quarrying, wholesale and retail trade, tourism and construction.

The information on the institutional sector in the region shows that the private informal sector provides about 83 per cent of all employment and the private formal, about 10 per cent. Thus, the private sector alone absorbs about 93 per cent of people on the job market. The public sector accounts for only 6 per cent with the semi-public/parastatal providing less than 1 per cent of jobs in the region.

This underscores the crucial importance of the private sector in the economy of the region, of which it constitutes the key to economic growth and associated developments. The sector provides avenues for involvement in economic and work activities, particularly to women, irrespective of their formal educational background.



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## **Economic and Social Infrastructure**

After independence, the government embarked upon an extensive programme of providing infrastructure such as roads, schools and health facilities for the country as a whole. The creation of new districts also saw the selection of a number of towns to serve as administrative centres.

Trade quickly followed road building and the establishment of district and regional capitals. Many towns therefore grew as a result of trade, agriculture, industry and administration. Aflao, Anloga, Dzodze and Ho are examples of towns, which grew mainly because of trade. Hohoe, Akatsi, Kete Krachi and Jasikan, on the other hand grew mainly as administrative centres

A general characteristic of urban localities in the region is the availability of service facilities such as post offices, telecommunication facilities, health facilities, and secondary, and in many cases, tertiary educational institutions. Besides, with the provision of good drinking water and electricity, life is made healthier, and this perhaps explains the rapid growth of some of the localities.



**View of Ho**



**Kente Cloth**



**Beach resorts – Sailing in Ada**



## **INVESTMENT POTENTIALS**

The Volta Region, strategically positioned, and lying between Togo and the rest of Ghana, presents huge investment opportunities.

The region is dominated by the River Volta and Lake Volta, on its western flank, running almost the whole length of the region. The river and the lake are a source of power and much of the water for the region, and indeed the entire country. The Volta Lake is also the water highway to the north and a great fishing lake.

The tremendous potentials of these great water bodies for inland fishing, irrigation and recreational activities are yet to be fully exploited.

The region also has fertile agricultural lands, enormous potentials for large-scale fish farming, large deposits of clay for brick and ceramics production, extensive salt deposits along the coast, and the largest variety of tourist attractions.

The Volta Basin is a treasure-trove of various important minerals and other natural resources, including gold, diamonds, copper, lead, iron ore, and oil and gas.

Recently, the regional authorities launched an annual trade and investment fair to market the region and encourage investors to take advantage of the favourable investment environment, the promising natural resource sector and improved infrastructural network, to invest in the Volta Region.

Potentials exist in:

- Agriculture – crop farming, animal husbandry

- Agro-processing - maize meal, cassava flour and fruit processing
- Production of bottled water
- Salt mining
- Inland fishing
- Ceramics
- Garment production
- Plastic and paper waste recycling
- Bottle recycling
- Wood waste recycling
- Computer assembly
- Radio and satellite communications
- Hotel/tourism
- Mining and oil/gas exploration



**Akosombo dam**



## HO, THE CAPITAL CITY

### Introduction

Ho is in the south-eastern part of Ghana and is the capital of the Volta Region. It lies between Mount Adaklu and Mount Galenkui (Togo Atakora Range).

It was founded in the early 18th century during westward migrations of the Ewe people. Its agricultural basis was strengthened after 1870 by the development of German kola nut plantations and the expansion of cocoa cultivation.

The town's modern commercial importance was enhanced by the Volta Bridge (built in 1957) at Adome, which connects Ho with Ghana's capital city and southern ports. Ho lies on a main road from the coast leading north-eastwards to Togo, and it has grown over the years into a major cultural, educational, market and transport centre.

Ho is noted for a lively and huge open market that attracts people from all over Ghana and Togo. There are numerous churches, including the cathedrals of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ho and the EP Church. Famous educational institutions include: Ho Polytechnic, Mawuli School, OLA Girls' Secondary School, Kabore School Complex and Dora Memorial School. There is also the newly established EP University College, and a state-funded university is set to open soon.



**Ho Market**



Ho Polytechnic



Ho is also home to a sports stadium, a museum, a major military barracks, many regional bank and corporate head offices, a large prison, etc.

### Social Set-up

Ho, with a population of nearly 100,000, also is the capital of Asogbe State, which was an autonomous kingdom before the advent of colonialism. The Asogli people are the dominant group in the Ho Municipality. Asogli State comprises four traditional set-ups, Akoefe, Ho, Kpenoe and Takla. These four traditional set-ups were founded by the direct descendants of Togbe Kakla. Ho serves as the seat of the paramountcy.

The Asogli State Council, the traditional ruling council, comprises the Agbogbomefia, Togbe Afede XIV, who is the President, Paramount Chiefs of Akoefe, Kpenoe and Takla, and the five Divisional Chiefs of Ho.

The languages spoken are Ewe and English, being the official Language of the country. The traditional festival of the people of Ho is the Yam Festival, which is celebrated in September, and is of great tourist interest.

## **Climate and Vegetation**

There are two main seasons: the rainy season and the dry season. The rainy seasons are from March to July and mid-August to October. The monthly temperature averages between 22°C and 32°C. The dry season lasts November to February. Most days are hot, but temperatures cool down at night almost all year round. The surrounding mountainous areas of Amedzofe, Biakpa, Vane, and Ashanti Kpoeta are generally cooler all year.

The types of vegetation in the Ho Municipality are semi-deciduous forest and savannah woodland. The various trees found in this area, used for domestic fuel and timber, are wawa, mahogany, and borassius palm used for construction. There are two types of soil: forest soil and savannah soil which support different crops. The forest soil can sustain crops such as cocoa, avocado, plantain, and banana. The savannah soil supports maize, cassava, yam, groundnuts, legumes, and a variety of vegetables.

## **Economic Activities**

Employment statistics shows that about 75 per cent of the working population in Ho is employed in the private informal sector. One out of 10 working people is in the public sector, whilst one out of 4 is in the formal sector (public and private). The formal sector of the municipality's economy includes the public service workers, private construction companies, and a few trading companies.

But the main economic activity in Ho is trading. There are many supermarkets, stores, a wide range of table-top shops and hawkers selling various items.

The other major economic activity is farming. The major crops and food produced in the area are maize, cassava, yam, fruits, plantain, banana, and oil palm, as well as export crops like pineapple, mangoes and cocoa. Livestock is raised for both commercial and domestic purposes. They include rabbit, grasscutter, goat, sheep, poultry, and cattle.

Other areas of economic activities are stone and sand winning. There are enormous deposits of clay.

Some ongoing projects to improve agriculture in the municipality are land and water management, root and tuber improvement, routine monitoring and containment of pest and diseases, and cross breeding of small ruminants.

There are plans for a regional airport.

### Industrial Areas

A tract of land earmarked for *light industry* is available opposite the Medium Mortar Regiment, 2km from of Ho Central. About 5 kilometres on the outskirts of Ho on the road to Kpetoe, is located another site designated for *heavy industry*. It is close to the site for the proposed regional airport. It borders a first class road to Lome, Togo, through the Aflao Border Post. Land is available to investors in parcels of 0.25 Hectare or multiples.







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