

*A biocultural lens to
understand how
agroforestry can contribute
to climate resilience and
sustainable rural livelihoods*

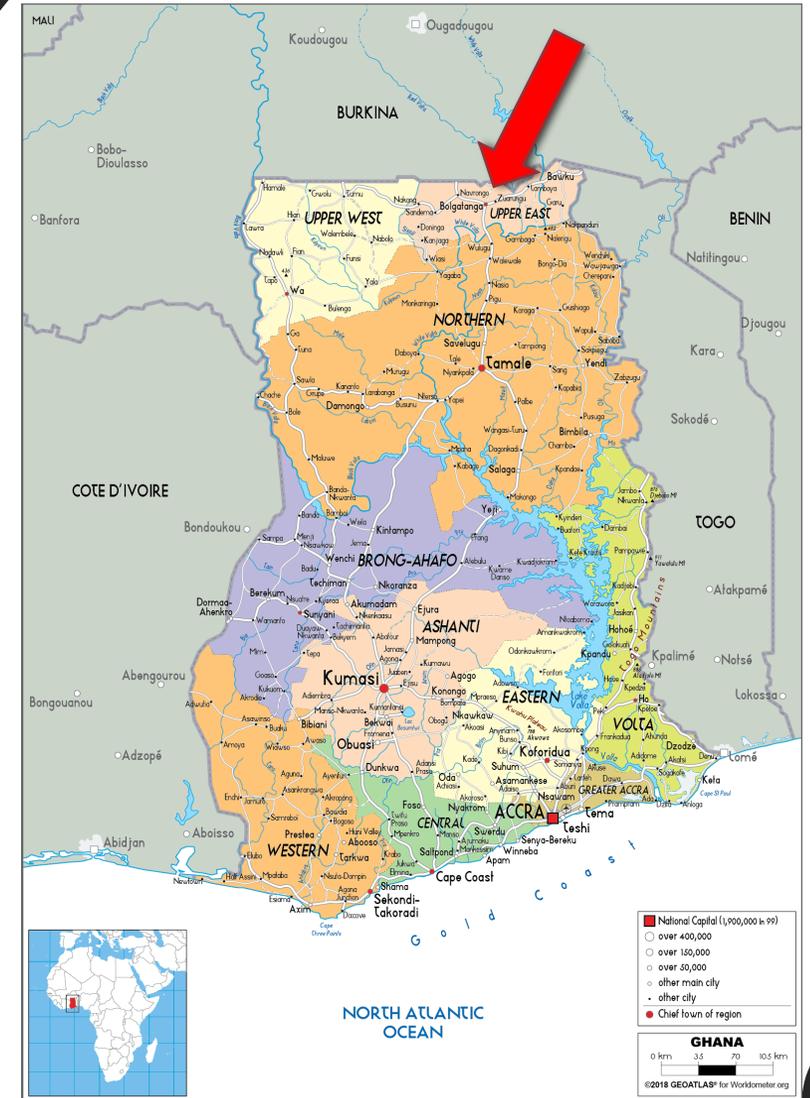
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Research Context

The Upper East District of northern Ghana is a semi-arid region where the livelihoods of farmers and agro-pastoralists are threatened by land degradation. This is in part the results of market-driven intensification of agricultural production that leads to unsustainable land use practices including deforestation and overgrazing. All these issues are exacerbated by the effect of global climate change.



Ghana

Research Questions

1) How investments in agroforestry can increase the resilience of farmers' livelihoods and their ecosystems in the semi-arid region of northern Ghana?

2) What are the underlying political, social, and cultural factors that contribute to and undermine climate and livelihood resilience?



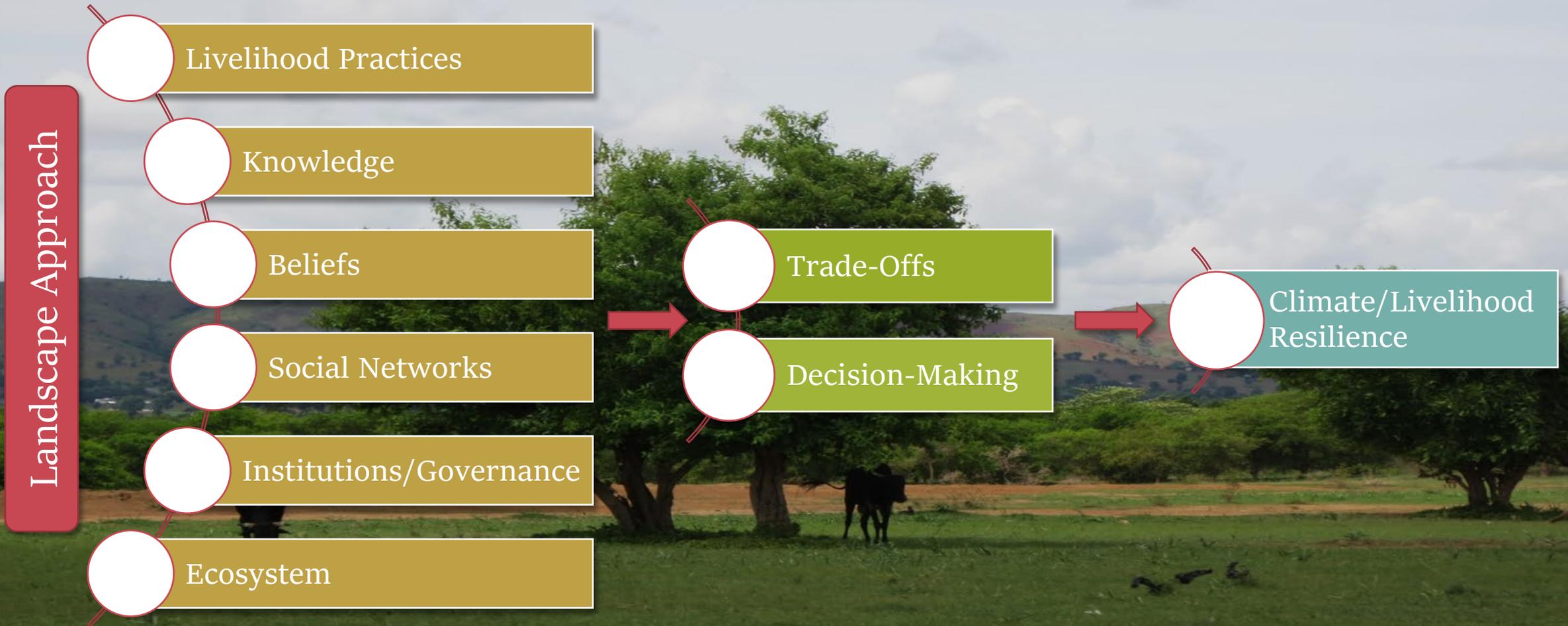
Methods

1) Systematic scoping literature review to assess how a biocultural lens has been used to assess climate and livelihood resilience

2) Various participatory approaches to identify trade-offs and decision-making processes



Biocultural Framework



Preliminary Findings

Literature gaps:

- 1) Socio-cultural aspects of resilience, both to climate and livelihood are often dealt with sporadically and are rarely addressed together in the development and resilience literature*
- 2) As a consequence, decision-making process and the factors that shape it are poorly understood*

Future research:

- 1) Develop a systematic approach to understand what factors shape decision-making, and the processes involved*
- 2) Explore new methods to capture the “hidden factors” of decision-making and the type of data needed to highlight the role of human agency that emphasizes people’s capacity for, and differences in perceiving risks and taking anticipatory action either individually or collectively*



Photo credit: Marie-Blanche Roudaut

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