

## **Economic Activities**

### **Agriculture**

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Region's economy, employing about 70% of the economically active population and accounts for about 60 percent of the Regional GDP. About 77 percent of the Region's rural population depends directly and indirectly on agriculture and related activities for their livelihood. Only 13.5 percent and 6.0% are employed by the private and public formal sectors respectively. The rest of the working population are in the informal sector.

The Region has a total cultivable area of 11,000 square kilometres (i.e. 46% of the total land mass of the region) of which 45,000 hectares have been put under tree crops, whilst 1,600 hectares is used for food crop production (SRID, MOFA, 2003).

### **Tree Crops**

The Region is endowed with vast arable lands and rich fertile soils. Forty-five thousand (45,000) hectares of the total cultivable land have been planted with tree crops such as cocoa, oil palm, coconut, rubber and citrus. According to the Statistics, Research and Information Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Facts and Figures on Agriculture, 2003, the Western Region contributes 55% of Cocoa, 35% of Oil Palm, 75% of Coconut and 100% of Rubber to the National Production. These tree crops especially cocoa contribute immensely to the country's income generation and foreign exchange earnings.

Oil palm, rubber and coconuts plantations are found mainly in Districts such as Ahanta West, Nzema East, Jomoro and Wassa West. Cocoa on the other hand is mainly produced in Aowin Suaman, Sefwi-Wiawso, Juaboso, Bia, Wassa Amenfi East and Wassa Amenfi West Districts.

Some of the districts in the Region have a number of large and small scale industries which use mainly tree crops for their production and can be supported to maximize production and earn foreign exchange for the Region. For instance, in the Mpohor Wassa East District, the major industries are the Subri Industrial Plantation Limited (SIPL), Benso Oil – Palm Plantation (BOPP), Norpalm Ghana Limited, Ayiem Oil Mills Limited, and the Wiriko Asubonteng Oil Mills Limited. In the Ahanta West District, they have the Norpalm Ghana Limited and the Ghana Rubber Estate Limited which are into palm oil and rubber production respectively.

### **Food Crops Production**

Unlike the tree crops sub-sector, food crops production in the Region is low, probably due to the relatively smaller cultivable area for food crop production. According to statistics from SRID, MOFA, 2003, only 1,600 square kilometres of the total cultivable land area of 11,000 square kilometres is used for food crop production. The current low economic advantages that the sub-sector has against tree crop production has also lured farmers to prefer the cultivation of tree crops to food crops, inspite of the numerous potential benefits that exist for food crop production. The statistics also indicate that six major food crops are produced in the Region. These are: maize, rice, cassava, cocoyam, yam and plantain.

The six major food crops produced in the Region contribute 7.4% of maize, 7.3% of rice, 8.7% of cassava, 13.8% of cocoyam, 4.4% of yam and 22.2% of plantain to the national food production. Though small, the Region's contribution to the food crop production has aided in no small way in stabilizing the prices of food crops on the market. Mainly, these food crops are produced in the Aowin-Suaman, Juaboso, Bia, Wassa Amenfi East, Wassa Amenfi West and Sefwi-Wiawso Districts. It is however important to acknowledge that the food situation in the Region indicates a positive food self-sufficiency level of production for plantain, cassava and cocoyam whilst deficit continued to be registered in maize, rice and yam production (SRID, MOFA, 2000).

### **Livestock Production**

The contribution of the livestock sub-sector to the national production is also low just like the food production. The contribution is in the percentages of 11.8 for sheep, 7.9 for goats, 27 for exotic breed of pig and 39.2 for local breed of pig. It also contributes less than one percent of poultry and cattle. The absolute population of the production of livestock in the Region is shown below:

<u>Type of Animal</u>	<u>Population Produced Per Annum</u>
1. Sheep	415,923
2. Goat	248,789
3. Cattle	5,559
4. Pigs (Local)	14,325
5. Pigs (exotic)	169,126
6. Poultry (fowls)	4,094

Source: (SRID, MOFA, 2003)

### **Fishing**

The fisheries sub-sector is under developed but contributes about 10.7% to the national production with aquaculture contributing 0.032%. An analysis from the 2006 – 2009 Medium Term Development Plans of the Districts indicate that about 90% of the Region's catch is by small scale canoe fishermen who are unable to acquire modern technologies for their operations. For instance, Dixcove in the Ahanta West District is noted in the Region for its catch in sharks, tuna, and lobster. Jaway Wharf in the Jomoro District also produces tilapia and the fishing harbour in the Shama Ahanta East Metropolis is widely known in the Region for its catch in red fish. However, these are on very small scale because the fishermen use small scale canoe and human labour. There are also relatively sizeable numbers of fish farms dotted throughout the Region. The small scale nature of their activities makes their productivity low and for that matter affects national development. The Plans also indicated that there is a minimal level of production of snails and grass cutters in the Region with very few individuals venturing into their production.

## Cocoa Production

Statistics from the Ghana Cocoa Board shows that from 1995/96 to 2005/06, the contribution of the Region to the national production is over 50%, making it the highest producer of cocoa in Ghana. For instance, in the 1995/96 crop season, the region produced 206,570 metric tonnes out of the national output of 403,844 metric tonnes, representing 51.15% of the national output. The figure increased to 422,223 metric tonnes representing 57.02% of the national total of 740,458 metric tonnes in the 2005/2006 crop season. The dominant cocoa producing areas in the Region include Aowin Suaman, Sefwi-Wiawso, Juaboso, Bia, Wassa Amenfi East and Wassa Amenfi West Districts. Though people in the other districts along the coast are engaged in cocoa production, the level of production is very low. According to reports from the District Medium Term Development Plans (DMTDP) 2006 – 2007 of these districts, most cocoa farmers who reside in the districts have their farms in the main cocoa growing districts as mentioned above.

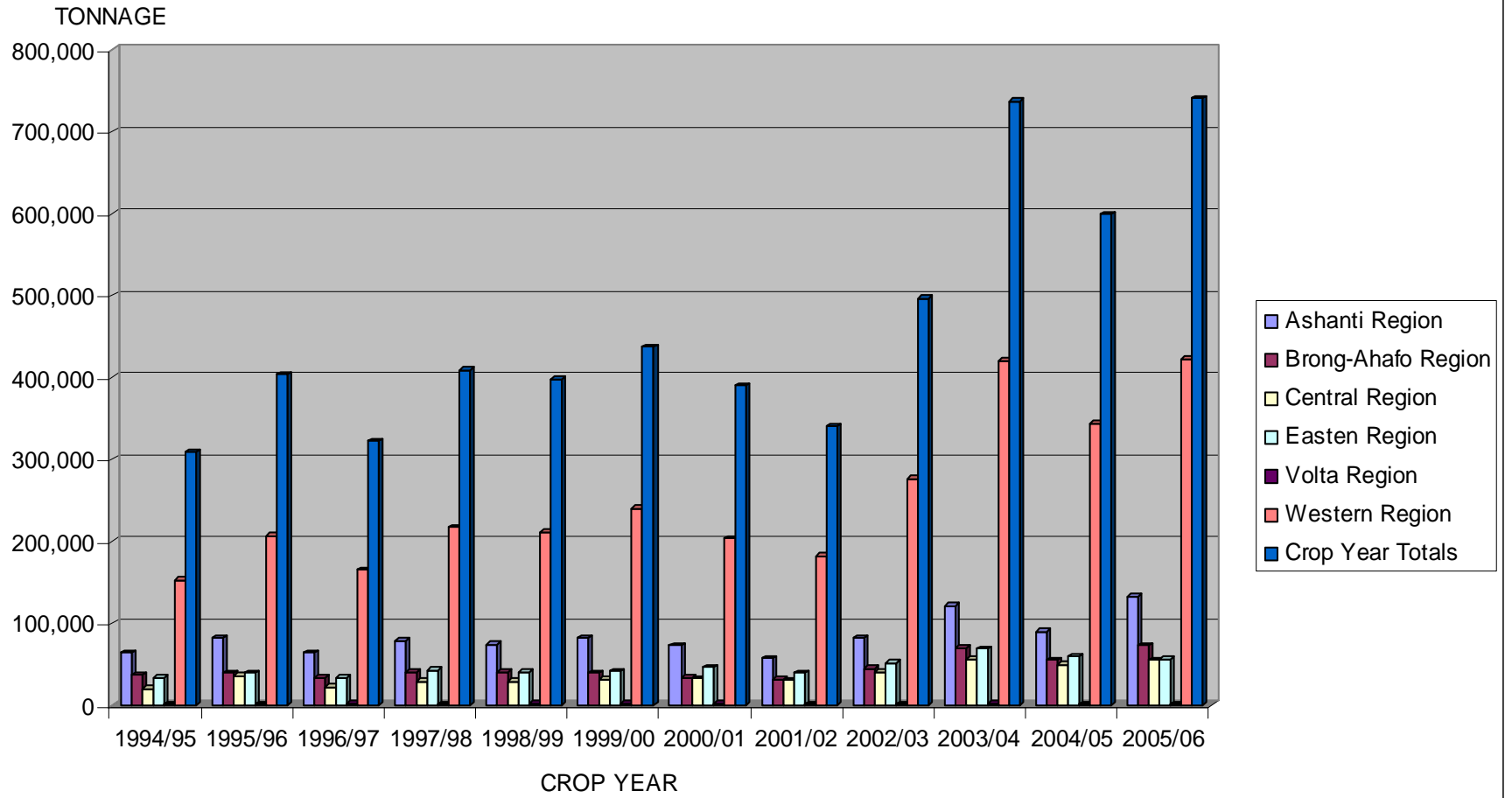
The table below indicates the statistics of cocoa production by regions.

**Table 1: COCOA OUTPUT BY REGIONS FROM 1994/95 TO 2005/06 (Tonnes)**

Crop Year	Ashanti Region	Brong-Ahafo Region	Central Region	Eastern Region	Volta Region	Western Region	Crop Year Totals
1994/95	64,025	37,014	20,518	33,667	1,067	153,161	309,452
1995/96	81,983	39,051	36,413	38,935	906	206,585	403,872
1996/97	64,534	34,195	22,415	34,305	1,678	165,361	322,488
1997/98	78,913	39,900	29,470	43,156	976	216,967	409,383
1998/99	74,448	40,244	29,676	40,535	2,062	210,710	397,675
1999/00	82,068	39,310	31,360	41,526	2,352	240,331	436,947
2000/01	72,994	33,109	32,136	46,225	1,681	203,627	389,772
2001/02	57,011	31,432	30,039	39,343	1,079	181,659	340,563
2002/03	82,445	45,309	39,989	51,604	913	276,586	496,846
2003/04	121,268	69,695	55,819	68,634	1,909	419,650	736,975
2004/05	90,535	55,025	48,868	59,308	1,336	344,246	599,318
2005/06	133,026	72,766	55,497	55,871	1,075	422,223	740,458

The graphical presentation of the above information/statistics is shown in the graph below:

COCOA OUTPUT BY REGIONS FROM 1994 - 2006



## **Industrial Activities**

Industrial activities undertaken in the Region range from small– scale to large– scale.

### **Large Scale Industries**

Large Scale industrial activities form about 10 percent of all industrial activities in the region. These large scale industries are concentrated in the Shama Ahanta East Metropolis, with a few of them in districts such as Ahanta West, Wassa West, Sefwi Wiawso, Aowin Suaman and Bibiani–Anhwiaso–Bekwai District Assemblies with a high concentration in Takoradi. The major industrial activities include cocoa processing, flour milling, sawn timber and wood processing. The Metal and Concrete manufacturing industry is the largest major manufacturing industry in the Sekondi/Takoradi metropolis. In the Mpohor Wassa East District, the major industries are the Subri Industrial Plantation Limited (SIPL), Benso Oil Palm Plantation (BOPP), Norpalm Ghana Limited. In the Ahanta West District major industries include Norpalm Ghana Limited, and the Ghana Rubber Estate Limited which are into Oil Palm and rubber production/plantations respectively. The Western Veneer Lumber Company is also found in the Ahanta West District. The Bonsa Tyre Factory at Bonsaso which was a source of market for the rubber plantation and the Aboso Glass Factory in the Wassa West district are now distressed, leaving many youth unemployed. Meanwhile, statistics indicate that, wages and salaries are comparatively higher in timber and wood products manufacturing sub–sector than all others in the Region (2003 NICR, GSS).

### **Small and Medium Scale Industries**

Small and Medium Scale industrial activities constitute about 90 percent of all industrial activities in the Region. The small scale industries are found in almost all the districts and engaged in mainly agro–processing while the medium scale industries are concentrated in districts such as Ahanta West, Wassa West, Sefwi Wiasw, Aowin-Suaman, Juaboso, Mpohor Wassa East and Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai districts. A soap manufacturing industry also exists in the Jomoro district. The Grain Mill factory is the only medium scale industry in the Juaboso district. In the Mpohor Wassa East District, the small and medium scale industries include; Ayiem Oil Mills Limited, and the Wiriko Asubonteng Oil Mills Limited. In the Ahanta West District,

Some of the small and medium scale industries are BMK, Mondial, Metro–Star, Faruok Industries, Prime Wood Limited, Intex Limited, GDC Limited, and Said Limited.

According to the 2003 National Industrial Census Report, Western Region provides 7.5 per cent of the industrial establishment in the country and accounts for 12.1 percent of persons engaged by industrial establishment in the country. The Region also accounted for about 7.4 percent and 13.3 percent of all industrial establishments in the Manufacturing and the Mining and Quarrying sectors respectively with the person engagement of 11.2 percent for Manufacturing and 22.8 percent for the Mining and Quarrying industries.

## **Forest Products**

The Region is endowed with numerous natural resources such as timber and forest reserves. About 52% of the Region falls within the high forest zone of Ghana and forms about 44% of the total closed forest area of Ghana. The Region has 24 forest reserves, which account for about 40% of the total forest reserves in the country. Prominent among them are the Bia Reserve (International Biodiversity Reserve Park), Cape Three Points National park, and the Ankasa/Nini/Suhyien Forest and Game reserve with an estimated 45% percent of the total volume of standing trees in the country. According to the Forestry Commission, over 25 percent of the country's total export earnings is generated by the timber industry of the region. Indeed, the rich tropical forest makes the region one of the largest producers of sawn timber and other processed wood products (source: 2003 NICR, GSS). In Sefwi Wiawso three major timber processing companies exist. They include: Suhuma Timber Company, Buadac Company and T. Andrews Enterprise Limited.

## **Services/Commerce**

The commerce sub-sector provides employment for about 10.3 per cent of the population in the Region especially in the whole sale and retail sectors (2000 PHC, Western Regional Report). The major commercial activities in the Region include buying and selling, with banking as the major commercial service. The major items of trade are agricultural products and inputs, orthodox and herbal drugs, auto – parts, clothing, provisions, petroleum and plastic products.

## **Whole Sale and Retail Trading**

Buying and selling forms an integral part of the Region's economy. Besides the daily markets in the urban centres, periodic markets are organized in the various districts. These market centres operate effectively on designated days. A wide variety of goods and services ranging from foodstuffs to first aid drugs as well as clothing and textiles are on sale on such designated days. Even though these markets operate effectively, majority of them do not have essential market structures to enhance their operation.

## **Banking**

Banking services is one of the major services that are available in all the district capitals. These banks include both rural and commercial banks. The evenly spatially distributed pattern of these banks in the region enhances people access to banking services and creates the enabling environment for commercial activities. The most popular and widely distributed banks in the Region are the Ghana Commercial Bank, SG-SSB Bank, Agricultural Development Bank and the various Rural Banks. Apart from performing their traditional role of saving mobilization and granting of loans to business entities, they also do education on the need to save within the farming communities in particular.

## **TOURISM**

There are numerous tourist attraction sites in the Region that can be harnessed to earn foreign exchange for the Region and to improve her economy. The Region has some of the vast ecotourism attraction sites. Even though they are not well developed to international standards, they greatly contribute to the development of the tourism industry in the country. Some of these sites have ancillary facilities like guest houses and hotels where visitors can sleep and feel at home. There are also unique cultural practices and ancient/historical sites. Some of these important sites are listed below.

### **Ecotourism Attractions**

- ✓ Bia National Park and Bia Resource Reserve - 306 km sq.
- ✓ Nini-Suhyien National Park and Ankasa Resource Reserve - 490 km sq.
- ✓ Egyambra Crocodile Sanctuary -Takoradi-Elubo Highway
- ✓ Aketekyi Crocodile Pond - 30 km west of Takoradi
- ✓ Ehunyame Natural Caves
- ✓ Jaway Wharf in Jomoro District
- ✓ Wassa Domama Rock Shrine
- ✓ Pra Island in Mpohor Wassa East District
- ✓ Nzulezu Settlement - village on stilts, over lake Tandane, 90 kms west of Takoradi.
- ✓ Monumental Rock (Kofi Chebure Apaso – size: 1.5kmsq.) at Sucusuku in Bia District.
- ✓ Boako Water Falls, Sefwi Wiawso
- ✓ Ancestral home of Bosomoiso in Sefwi Wiawso
- ✓ Bonsayika Sacred Grove (island of 4.5 km sq) on the Bona River in Wassa West District.
- ✓ Kobriko Sacred Grove(which detests foot wear of any kind) in Wassa West District
- ✓ Mountains scenery and mud Fish Pond at Bekwai
- ✓ Conveyor Belt at Awaso

### **Other Attractions**

- ✓ Dr. Nkrumah's Hometown, Nkroful.
- ✓ Agbozome Market at Oseikojokrom, Bia District
- ✓ Sutreso Rapids in Aowin Suaman District(ASDA)
- ✓ Natural bunch/cluster of Rocks in ASDA
- ✓ Adjoafua ancestral stream in Bia
- ✓ Festivals (see table 1,page 12)

### **Some of the Forest reserves in the Region are shown below**

- ✓ Bonsa River reserve(160.58 Sq. km) in Wassa West(W/W/D)
- ✓ Neung South reserve (112.99 sq. km) in W/W/D.
- ✓ Yoyo River reserve in Aowin Suaman District Assembly (ASDA)
- ✓ Boi – Tano Forest in ASDA
- ✓ Sumtwitwi in BABDA
- ✓ Tano Suraw Extension in Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai District Assembly
- ✓ Afao Hills in BABDA
- ✓ Subri River reserve in Mpohor Wassa East District (MWEDA)
- ✓ Cape Three Points National Park

### **Takoradi Monkey Hill**

The Monkey Hill is in the heart of the Sekondi/Takoradi metropolis. It is a tropical forest inhabited by a large number of monkeys of different species. It can be developed to serve as an important tourist attraction in the Region. Since the Region has no zoological attraction, it can be developed as a zoo for the Region.

### **Hotels and Catering Facilities**

There are over a hundred (100) hotels in the Region and out of this number, ninety (90) have been certified by the Ghana Tourist Board to operate. With regard to catering facilities only 17 have been approved to operate. Most of the first and second class hotels are located in the Sekondi/Takoradi Metropolis because of the economics of scale that the metropolis enjoys over the districts. Some of the major hotels in the Sekondi/Takoradi Metropolis include: Takoradi Beach Hotel, Rainbow Hotel, Planters Lodge, Hillcrest Hotel, Animen's Hotel, Super Star Hotel, Melody Hotel, Ahenfie Hotel, Valley Beach Hotel, Super Gardens Hotel, Trust Lodge, among others. Other major hotels outside the metropolis are; Axim Beach Hotel, Frankfaus Hotel, Ankobra Beach Hotel and B&Q Hotel all in Nzema East District; Hotel De Hilda and Bogoso Golden Hotel all in Wassa

West District; Busua Beach Hotel (one of the Golden Beach resorts in the country and the only one in the Region) and African Rainbow Resort at Busua all in the Ahanta West District, Beulah Land Hotel in Sefwi Wiawso, among others. Even though some of these hotels are outside the metropolis, they attract a lot of people.

The Metropolis also has a number of Guest Houses which are complementing the efforts of these hotels. Some of these Guest Houses include Summer Lodge, Mexico Guest House, Maggie Guest House, Modules Guest House, Caths Lodge, to mention but a few. The major Guest Houses outside the Region are; Melody Guest House in Asankragwa, Tricky and Baccus Guest Houses in Enchi, and Minado Guest House in Sefwi Wiawso. Despite the location of these Guest Houses, they attract a lot of guests.

The activities of catering facilities in the Region contribute greatly to tourism development. The major catering facilities in the metropolis include Akroma Plaza Restaurant with conference facilities, U- 84 Restaurant, Bake and Grill Restaurant, Supper Hideout Catering Services, La Veda Local (Flower garden with restaurant), Skyy Beach Haven, Captain Hook's Restaurant, and Memories Restaurant. The most popular and highly patronised catering facility out the metropolis is the SAG Food Joint (Restaurant grade II) located in the Wassa West District.

### **Beaches and Other Pleasure Resources**

The Region's 192 km long coastal stretch is endowed with pristine natural attraction features, but are not well developed to generate adequate revenue for development. The Region has six major beaches; Busua, Butre, Dixcove, Axim, Ankobra and Half Assini.

- Busua Beach: This beach has been developed into a golden beach resort with the state of the art accommodation facilities in a serene atmosphere. It is a member of the Golden Beach group of resort in the country. An island (Abokwa Island) about 750 meters south of the beach provides an opportunity for boat cruising for holiday makers between the Island and the resort. The beach is also 5 km from Fort Metal Cross at Dixcove.
- Butre and Dixcove Beach Areas: These beaches can be reached by a short walk from Busua or by vehicular access from the highway. These beaches have great potentials for beach resort development. However, these areas are not developed.
- Axim Beach: This beach is rocky but has recreational potential suitable for a holiday resort. Offshore of the beach is the Boboayiyi Island on which a light house of the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority is located. At low tide, the island can be reached by walking while at high tide one can only reach the island with a boat.

- Ankobra Beach: The beach has already been developed into a beach resort with an exquisite atmosphere for holiday making. One can have a picturesque view of Ankobra River estuary from this resort.
- Half Assini Area: The coastal area from Benyin through Half Assini to New Town has a potential for a combination of public beach parks and private resort development. The Tandane lagoon provides enormous opportunities for ferrying and other water sporting activities.
- Other minor beaches are the Ajua Beach (around Dadowa Lagoon), Miamia Beach and Akwidaa Beach (38km west of the Takoradi – Elubo road)

Other tourist attractions found in the Region are Boako water falls and the Ancestral hole of Bosomoiso (4km from Wiawso) at Sefwi Wiawso District.

## **Cultural Heritage**

### **Paramountcies/Traditional Area**

The Region has five major ethnic groups, namely the Ahantas, Nzemas, Sefwis, Aowins and Wassas with twenty - one (21) paramountcies. These include Nsein, Lower Axim, Upper Axim, Apatem, Gwira all in the Nzema East District, Atuabo and Benyin all in the Jomoro District, Aowin (Enchi) and Suaman (Dadieso) all in Aowin Suaman District and Wiawso in the Sefwi Wiawso, Juaboso and Bia Districts, Wassa Fiase in Wassa West District, Wassa Mpohor in Mpohor Wassa East District, Busua, upper Dixcove, Lower Dixcove all in the Ahanta West District, Shama, Sekondi, Essikado all in the Shama Ahanta East District, Sefwi Anhwiaso, Sefwi Bekwai all in the Bibiani – Anhwiaso – Bekwai District and the Wassa Amenfi paramountcy at Wassa Akropong which controls the Amenfi state.

The people exhibit a high degree of cultural homogeneity in areas of lineage organization (Clan), inheritance and succession, marriage and religion. Chieftaincy succession is for instance, based on the matrilineal system of inheritance. However, the enstoolment of Safohene and Okyeame follows the patrilineal system of inheritance.

### **Festivals**

There are difference types of festivals celebrated in the region. However four of such festivals dominate. These are; Kundum, Afahye (Akwantukase), Alluole, and Nkronu. With the exception of the Wassa, Sefwi, Shama and Mpohor traditional areas, all of the other traditional councils celebrate Kundum festival amidst glamorous drumming and dancing between August and November. The table below provides information on the festivals and their periods of celebration in the Region.

**Table 2: Festival and Periods of Celebration in Western Region.**

S/N	TRADITION COUNCIL	TOWN	FESTIVAL	PERIOD OF CELEBRATION
1	Ahanta	Busua	Kundum	August / September
2	Jomoro	Apatiem	Kundum	September/October
3	Aowin	Enchi	Kundum	February (every 3 years)
4	Eastern Nzima	Atuabo	Kundum	September / October
5	Essikadu	Essikadu	Kundum	September / October
6	Gwira	Bramiankor	Elluo	October
7	Lower Town Axim	Axim	Kundum	August / September
8	Lower Dixcove	Dixcove	Kundum	August / September
9	Mpohor	Mpohor	Odwira	September / October
10	Nsein	Nsein	Kundum	August / September
11	Sefwi Anhwiaso	Anhwiaso	Afahye	November / December
12	Sefwi Bekwai	Bekwai	Afahye	November / December
13	Sekondi	Sekondi	Kundum	November / December
14	Sefwi Wiawso	Wiawso	Alluole	October/November/ Dec
15	Shama	Shama	Nkronu	August / September
16	Suaman	Dadieso	Alluole	October/November/ Dec
17	Upper Axim	Axim	Kundum	August/September
18	Wassa Amenfi	Akropong	Afahye/ Edie	January
19	Wassa Fiase	Benso	Afahye/ Odwira	August/September
20	Western Nzema	Benyin	Kundum	October
21	Ahanta West	Princess	Kundum	September/October

**Historical Sites (Forts)**

The Region has the second largest concentration of forts and castles in the country. It has eight out of the fifteen selected tourist forts under the Museums and Monuments Board. They were developed in the country by the Portuguese, Dutch, and the English in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Majority of the forts were developed to serve as European trading forts. Some of these historical sites/forts are described below:

**1) Fort Batensteyn**

This historic fort built in 1656 by the Dutch is located on a hill overlooking the coast and Butre Village. Some portions of the fort are in poor conditions and can be rehabilitated and converted into a guest house, inn etc.

**2) Fort Sebastian**

This fort is located in Shama and is a restored fort built by the Portuguese around 1560. From records, the fort is the monument of Dr. William Anthony Amoo (Ghana's celebrated philosopher). The fort serves as a tourist attraction site but has rocky beaches which is not safe for holiday – making.

3) ***Fort Metal Cross***

Fort Metal Cross was conceived in the 1680's by the English. Construction, however, started in 1692 and was completed in 1698. It is found on the sandy beach of Dixcove about 35km West of Takoradi. The fort has been leased to a mining company for office and accommodation. However, there is caretaker who receives visitors and takes them on a tour around the fort.

4) ***Fort (Groot) Fredericksburg***

The fort was built in 1683 by the German Brandenburgers, and is situated on Manfro Hill, the highest point of the beach in Princess Town. The fort was taken over by Chief John Conney, from Ahanta, in 1708 and was recaptured in 1725 by the Dutch and renamed Hollandia. It is located 30 km on the Takoradi - Ellubo highway. The fort has been partly rehabilitated and is being used as a guest house. The remaining parts could be rehabilitated for tourist purposes.

5) ***Fort St. Antonio***

Located on the coast of Axim, St. Antonio is the oldest fort in the Region and was built in 1515 by the Portuguese and is currently being used as government offices. It is located 63km West of Takoradi. The fort has twenty rooms.

***Fort Apollonia***

This is a small fort built between 1768 and 1770 at Benyin by the English along the sandy beach interrupted by lagoons and swamps which characterize the coastlands west of the mouth of the River Ankobra. The fort was abandoned in 1819 following the end of the infamous slave trade. It was transferred to the Dutch in 1868 who held it until 1872. The fort which was in ruins has been partially restored and is being used as a guest house.

6) ***Fort Orange***

This fort is situated along the coast of Sekondi. It was built by the Dutch around 1694. The fort is restored and being used as accommodation and lighthouse by the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority.

7) ***Fort Dorothea*** is located at Akwidaa and is now in a state of disrepair.

## Natural Resources

The Western Region is blessed with considerable natural resources, which give it significant economic importance within the context of national development.

## Forest Resources

Besides the beautiful coastal features, the Region has 17 out of the 30 forest reserves of high biological diversity and value. These reserves have been constituted into areas which are internationally referred to as “Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas”. Two major parks are found in the region, namely; Ankasa Forest Reserve and Bia National Park. The Bia National Park has been designated as a Globally Significant Biodiversity Area. There are over 62 mammal species, 10 primates including three species of the Columbus and the endangered white breasted guinea fowl in these parks. Over 250 bird species and an arboretum with about 650 butterfly species are found in the park.

### Other forest reserves in the region are shown below

- ✓ Bonsa Reiver reserve (160.58 sq. km) in Wassa West District (W/W/D)
- ✓ Neung South reserve (112.99 sq. km) in W/W/D.
- ✓ Yoyo River reserve in Aowin Suaman District(ASDA)
- ✓ Boi – Tano Forest in ASDA
- ✓ Sumtwitwi in Bibiani – Anhwiaso – Bekwai (BABDA)
- ✓ Tano Suraw Extension in BABDA
- ✓ Afao Hills in BABDA
- ✓ Anhwiaso East Reserve (87 sq.km) in BABDA
- ✓ Subri River reserve in Mpohor Wassa East District (MWEDA)

According to the Ghana Forestry Inventory Project (GFIP), 2005, Western Region has 100 percent (346 sq.km) of Ghana’s excellent quality forest and 93 percent of Ghana’s Genetic Heat Index (GHI) greater than 200. This implies that Western Region contains most of the country’s rare biological species.

There are however, inadequate tourist accommodation facilities around the parks. This is therefore a potential investment area for private developers for the hospitality industry.

## Mineral Resources

The Region is endowed with a wide variety of minerals including gold, bauxite, diamond and manganese. It has the richest mineral resources in the country. It is second in the production of gold and diamond to the Ashanti Region and Eastern Region respectively, **first in Bauxite (100%), first in Manganese (100%)** and has deposits of iron ore at Oppong - Manso, limestone at Nauli near Half Assini, silica, sand, natural gas and oil

found both on and off the shore of the Tano Basin, glass sands around Tarkwa and Half Assini, solar salt around all the coastal stretch of the Region and clays of various types and quality in almost all the districts in the region especially at Allenda Wharf, Aluku, Asankragwa, Bokazo, and Essiama - Kikam.

It is estimated that only 0.5 percent of the total land area of Ghana is under some form of mining concession and over 80 percent of this is located in the Western Region. About twenty – one percent of the total land area of 23,921 sq. km of the Region is under mining concessions. Despite the fact that the Region's total geological profile and mineral potentials are yet to be fully determined and harnessed, it is home to over 30 percent of Ghana's gold and all of its manganese and bauxite deposits.