

REPUBLIC OF GHANA

**SEFWI WIAWSO MUNICIPAL
ASSEMBLY**

**WESTERN NORTH
REGION**



**UPDATED SEFWI WIAWSO
MUNICIPAL PROFILE**

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CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The Legislative Instrument (L.I) 1386 establishing the Sefwi Wiawso District was enacted on 23rd November, 1988 under PNDC Law 207 and replaced by Local Government Act 493, 1993. It was elevated to a Municipal status in March, 2012 under Legislative Instrument, (L. I) 2015. The Sefwi Wiawso Municipality lies in the North Eastern part of the Western North Region. Sefwi Wiawso which is the capital of the Municipality also doubles as the Regional capital of the Western North Region.

1.2 Vision, Mission and Functions

- **Vision**

To be Economically Prosperous and Peaceful Municipality where quality social services and facilities are delivered.

- **Mission**

The Sefwi Wiawso Municipal Assembly exists as the highest political, administrative and planning authority to improve upon the quality of life of the people in the Municipality by harnessing and utilizing all resources for sustainable development.

- **Functions**

The Sefwi Wiawso Municipal Assembly is created as pivot of the administrative and developmental decision-making body in the Municipality and the basic unit of local government administration. It has deliberative, legislative as well as executive functions. It has been established as a structure to which is assigned the responsibility of the totality of government to bring about integration of political, administrative and development support needed to achieve a more equitable allocation of power, wealth and geographically dispersed development in Ghana; and above all it is constituted as Planning authorities for the Municipality.

The following are the functions of the Municipal Assembly;

- Be responsible for the overall development of the Municipality and to ensure the preparation and submission through the Regional Co-ordinating Council for the approval of the development plan to the NDPC and budget to the Minister of Finance for the Municipality
- Formulate and execute plans, programmes and strategies for the effective mobilization of the resources necessary for the overall development of the Municipality
- Promote and support productive activity and social development in the Municipality and remove any obstacles to initiative development

- Initiate programmes for the development of basic infrastructure and provide municipal works and services in the Municipality
- Be responsible for the development, improvement and management of human settlements and the environment in the Municipality
- In co-operation with appropriate national and local security agencies, be responsible for the maintenance of security and public safety in the Municipality
- Ensure ready access to the courts and public tribunals in the Municipality for the promotion of justice
- Initiate, sponsor or carry out such studies as may be necessary for the discharge of any of the functions conferred by the Act or any other enactment; and
- Perform such other functions as may be provided under any other enactment

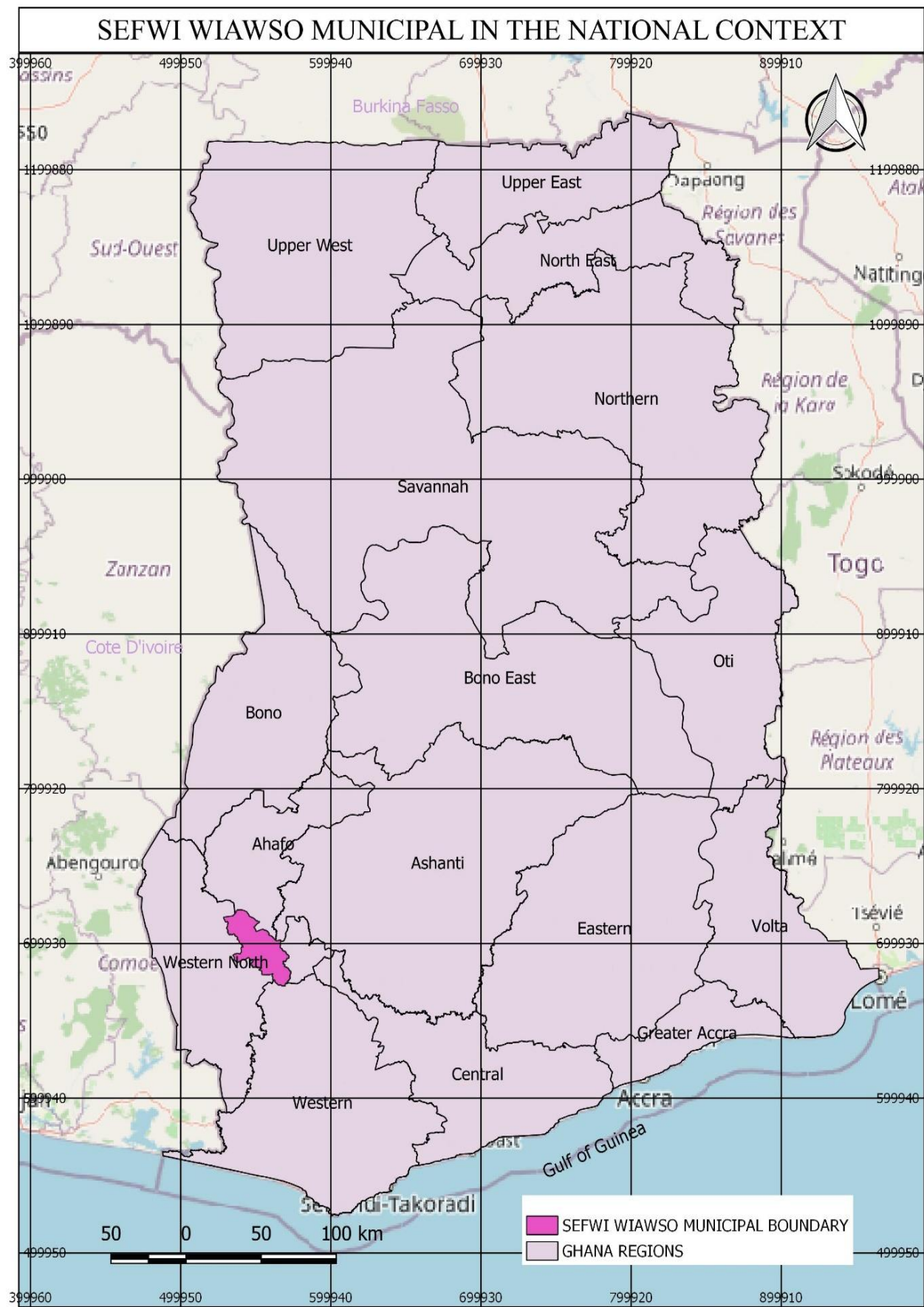
CHAPTER TWO

CHARACTERISE OF THE MUNICIPALITY

2.0 Location and size

The Sefwi Wiawso Municipality lies in the North-Eastern part of the Western North Region between latitudes 6°N and $6^{\circ} 30^{\circ} \text{N}$ and Longitudes $2^{\circ} 45^{\circ} \text{W}$ and $2^{\circ} 15^{\circ} \text{W}$. The Ahafo Region shares boundary with it to the North. The Municipality also shares boundaries with Juaboso District to the West, Aowin Municipality to the South, Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai Municipality to the East and Wassa Amenfi West Municipal to the South-East. The Municipality covers a land area of 1,280 sq. km. The Municipal capital is Sefwi Wiawso which also doubles as the Regional capital of Western North Region. Sefwi Wiawso being elevated as the capital of the Western North region has further opened up the Municipality and has brought a lot of pressure on social services. It has also brought a lot of investment opportunities and there is the need to create the enabling environment to tap the full potentials of the Municipality.

Figure 1: Location of the Sefwi Wiawso Municipal in National Context



AUTHOR : SURVEYOR GRACE AMOAH

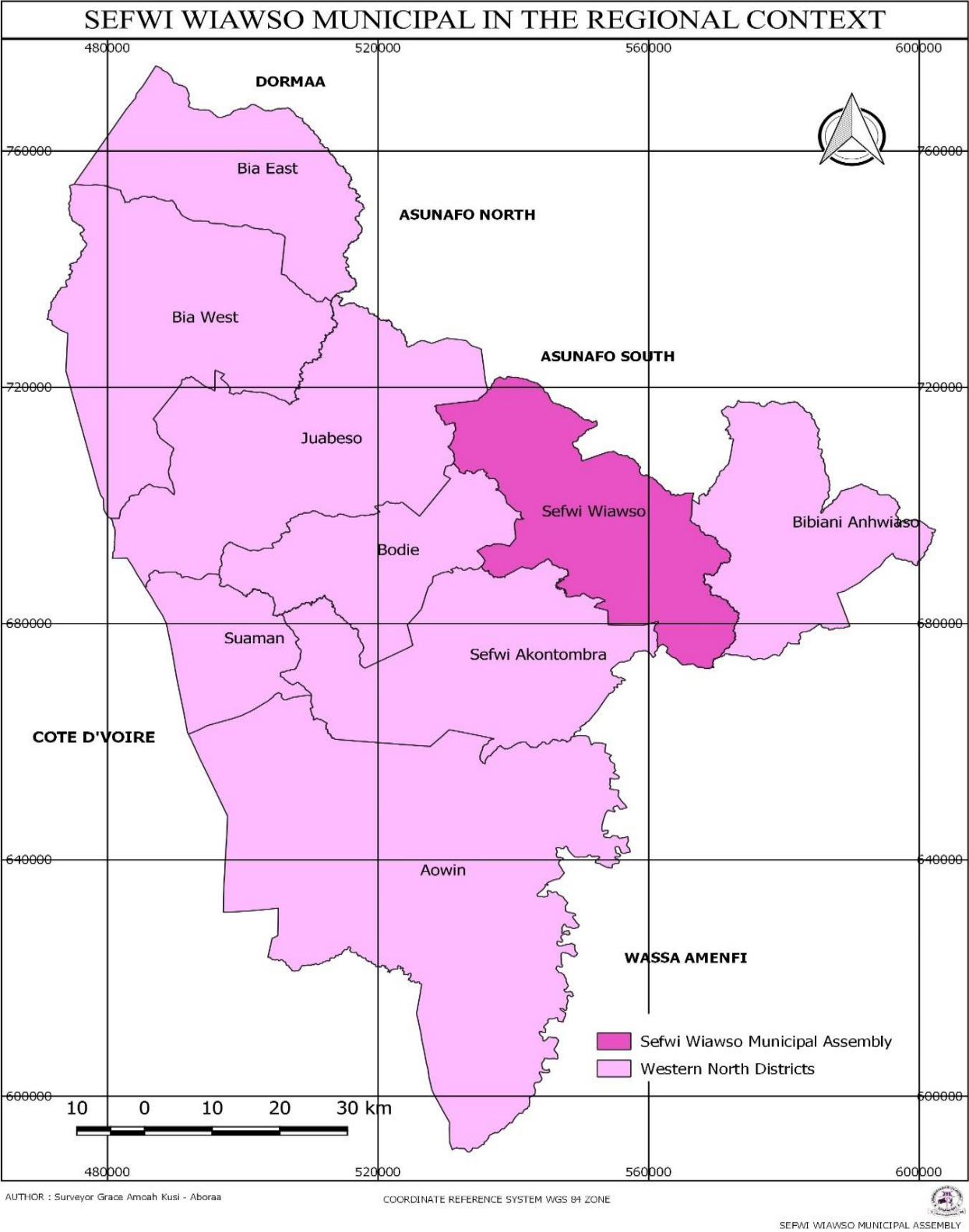
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SEFWI WIAWSO MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY

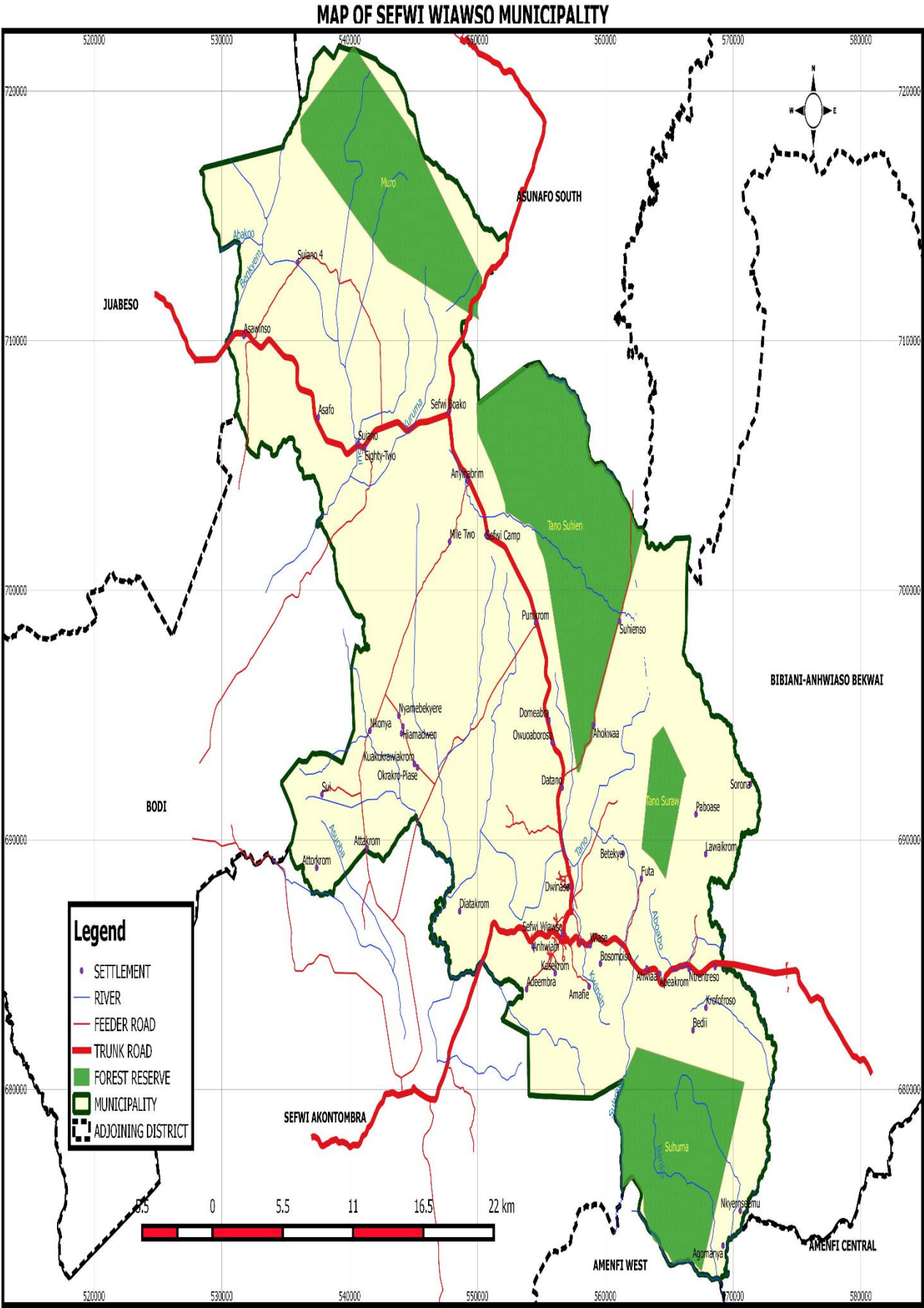
Source: SWMA, MPCU, 2024

Figure 2: Sefwi Wiawso Municipal Map in Regional context



Source:SWMA,MPCU, 2024

Figure 3: Sefwi Waiwso Municipality



Source:SWMA,MPCU, 2024

2.1 Population

The population of Sefwi Wiawso Municipality from the 2021 PHC is 151,220. As at 2021, the male population was 50.2 percent (75,905) and the females was 49.8 percent (75,315). Using the Regional growth rate of 0.2, the 2022 population is estimated at 157,329 with male population of 78,972 and female population of 78,358. This gives a sex ratio of the Municipality as 101 males to 100 females as against the region's ratio (100 male to 100 females).

Figure 4 shows the population pyramid of Sefwi-Wiawso Municipality. The results show that the Municipality has a youthful population consisting of a large proportion of children under 15 years, and a small proportion of elderly persons (65 years and older).

Figure 4: Population Hierarchy (2021) In Sefwi Wiawso

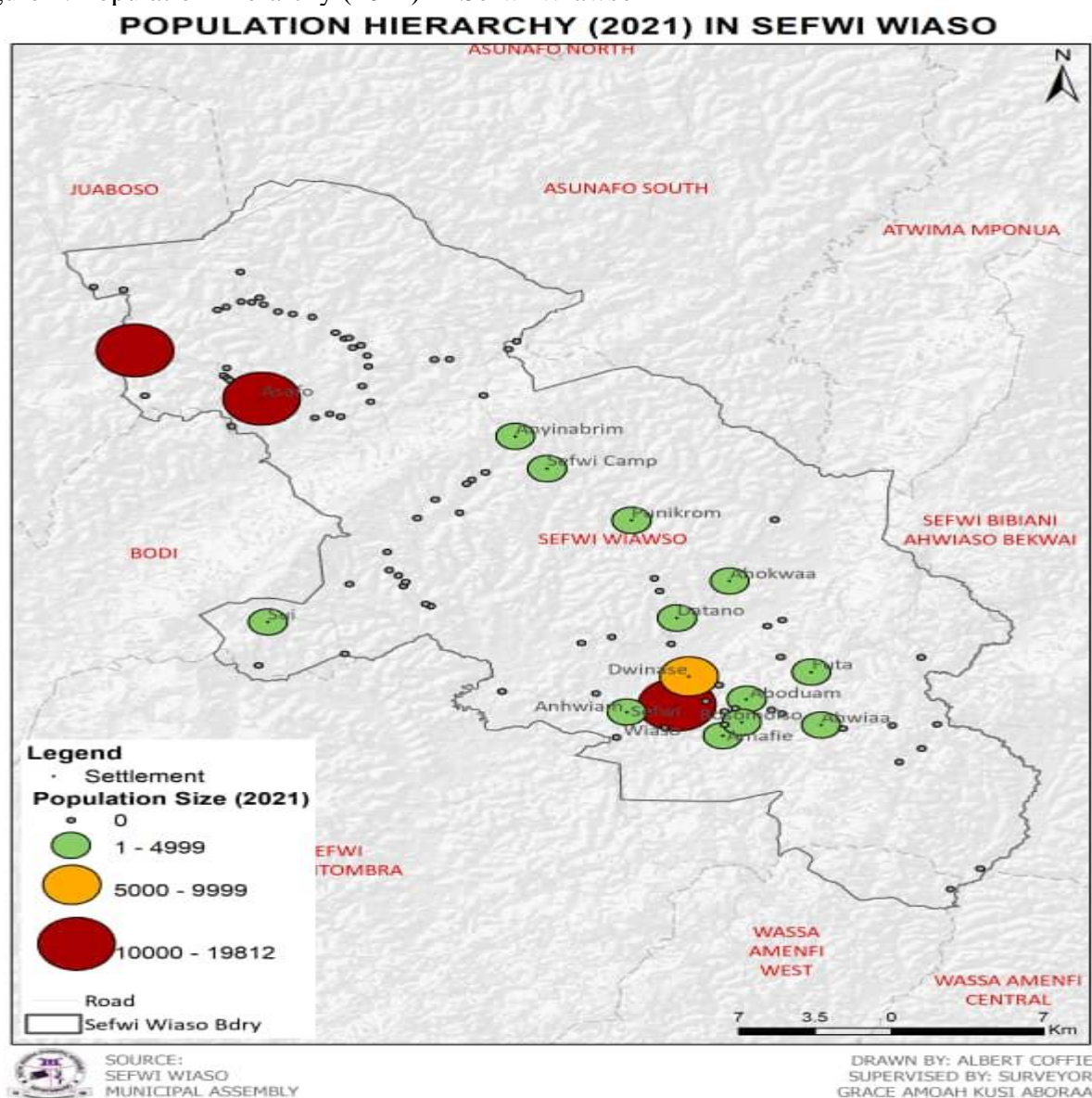
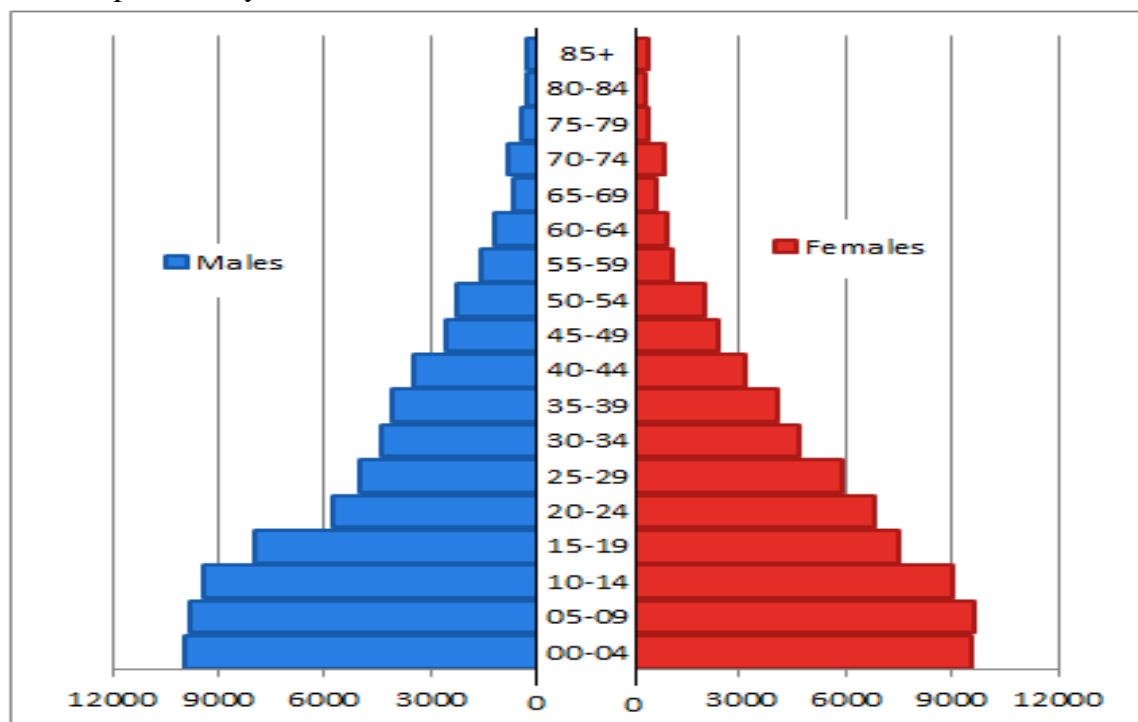


Figure 5: Population Pyramid



Source: Ghana Statistical Service

Figure 5 above shows the age dependency ratio by sex of the Municipality. It indicates that the population aged 15-64 represent about half (55.1) of the total population, whilst 3.7 percent represent the population 65+. Child dependency is high (74.8%) compared to adult dependency (6.8%). This would put a strain on the family budget and prevent other pressing issues from being addressed as much of the money would be used in educating the children, for example, providing clothing, hospital bills etc.

2.3 Vulnerability Analysis

The vulnerable and excluded people in society have always been disadvantaged. The Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS 4) defines the *extreme poor* as those whose standard of living is insufficient to meet their basic nutritional requirements even if they devoted their entire consumption budget to food. The following categories of people are considered to be in the poor, vulnerable and excluded group in the Municipality.

Some rural agricultural producers: Rural agricultural producers, particularly migrant farm hands, settlers and food crop farmers in the district are extremely poor.

Children in difficult circumstances: including the quarter of children under five who are malnourished, victims of child labour, street children, children of school going age who are not in school, who have dropped out of primary school, and children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

People living with HIV/AIDS: including infected persons and families of people living with HIV/AIDS.

People in displaced communities: particularly due to mining activities

Disadvantaged women: particularly single mothers, malnourished rural pregnant and nursing mothers, teenage mothers, and commercial sex workers.

Others include the elderly who have no access to family care and pension, Physically-challenged persons, particularly those with no employable skills, People suffering from chronic diseases, including victims of debilitating diseases such as tuberculosis, trachoma, bilharzias and breast cancer, Drug Addicts, Victims of abuse, particularly children and women suffering from sexual abuse and battery, Victims of harmful traditional practices, especially victims of harmful widowhood rites, early marriage, servitude, fosterage and perceived witchcraft and Unemployed, especially unskilled retrenched workers and the unemployed youth. From the above definitions, there is the need to develop policies to cover the people in such categories, by the District Assemblies and NGOs.

Categorization of the Vulnerable and Excluded Groups

The socio-economic survey conducted revealed the following categories of the people to be vulnerable and excluded within the Municipality as indicated in table below:

Table 1: Categories of Vulnerable and Excluded

Category	Number			Percentage	
	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female
Physically challenged	2738	1346	1392	0.74	0.76
Women	92760		92760		50.82
Children	84525	41,829	42686	22.92	23.39
Aged	8680	4306	4374	2.36	2.40

Source: Municipal Survey, 2024

Women

Though women play important role in the rural economy, they are discriminated against by society when it comes to decision-making, formal education as well as employment in the Municipality. They still suffer vulnerability and exclusion. For instance, there is low representation of women at the Municipal Level. There is high illiteracy rate among women in the Municipality and this has affected their chances of being employed in the formal sector – an indication of poverty and vulnerability. The perception of the society towards women is also a major factor contributing to

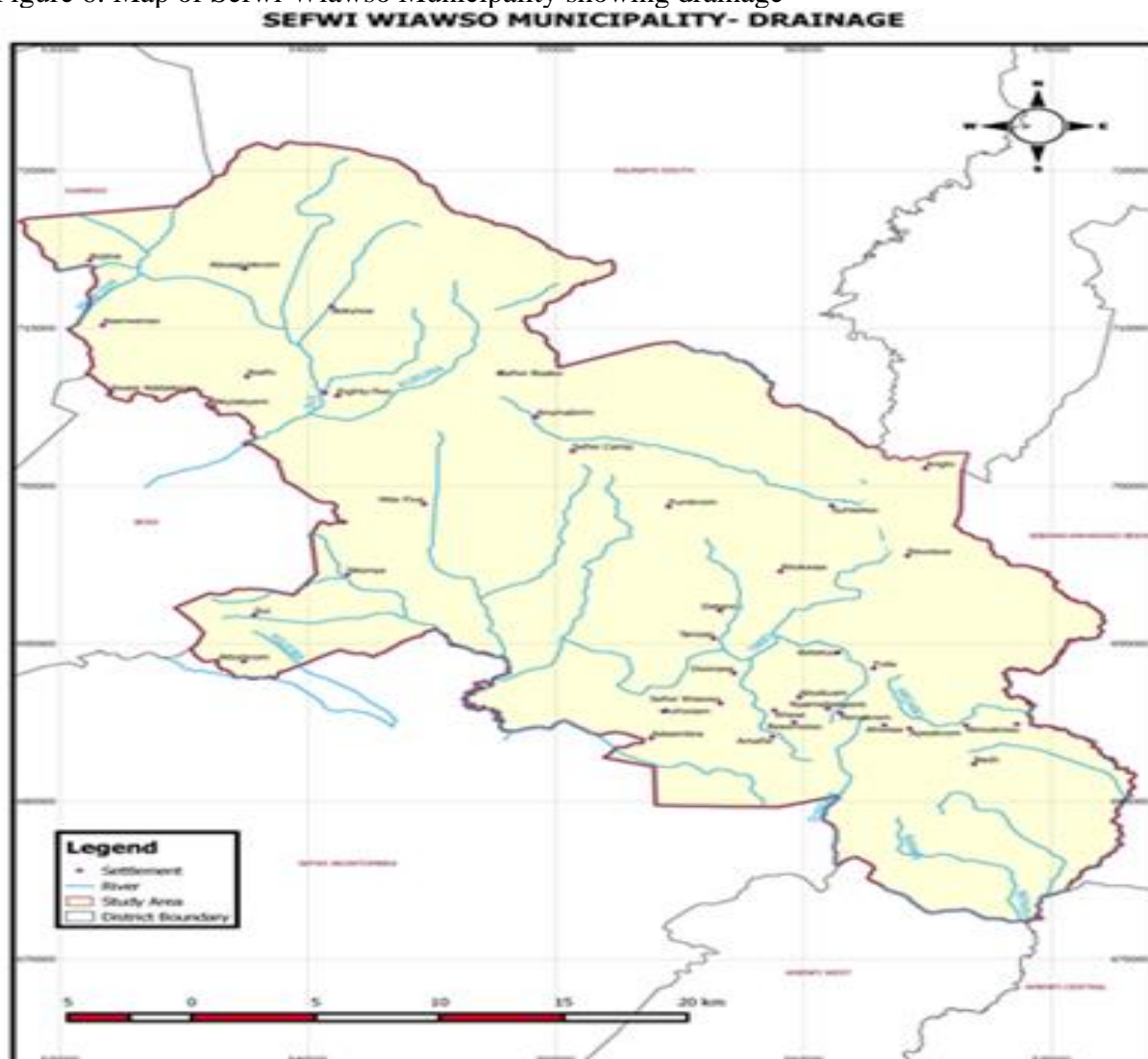
women discrimination in the Municipality. Generally, women in the district are not empowered to be involved in decision-making and other issues that affect them. This situation has serious implication for women welfare and general development of the Municipality.

2.4 Physical Features

2.4.1 Relief and Drainage

Most part of the Municipality is generally undulating and lies between 152.4m – 510m above sea level. The highest point, the Krokoa peak which is 510m above sea level lies roughly to the South-West of Sefwi Wiawso. The main drainage feature is the Tano River and its tributaries. The Tano River runs roughly in a North-South direction and enters the sea in La Cote D'ivoire. The major tributaries include the Suhien, Kunuma, Sui and the Yoyo rivers.

Figure 6: Map of Sefwi Wiawso Municipality showing drainage

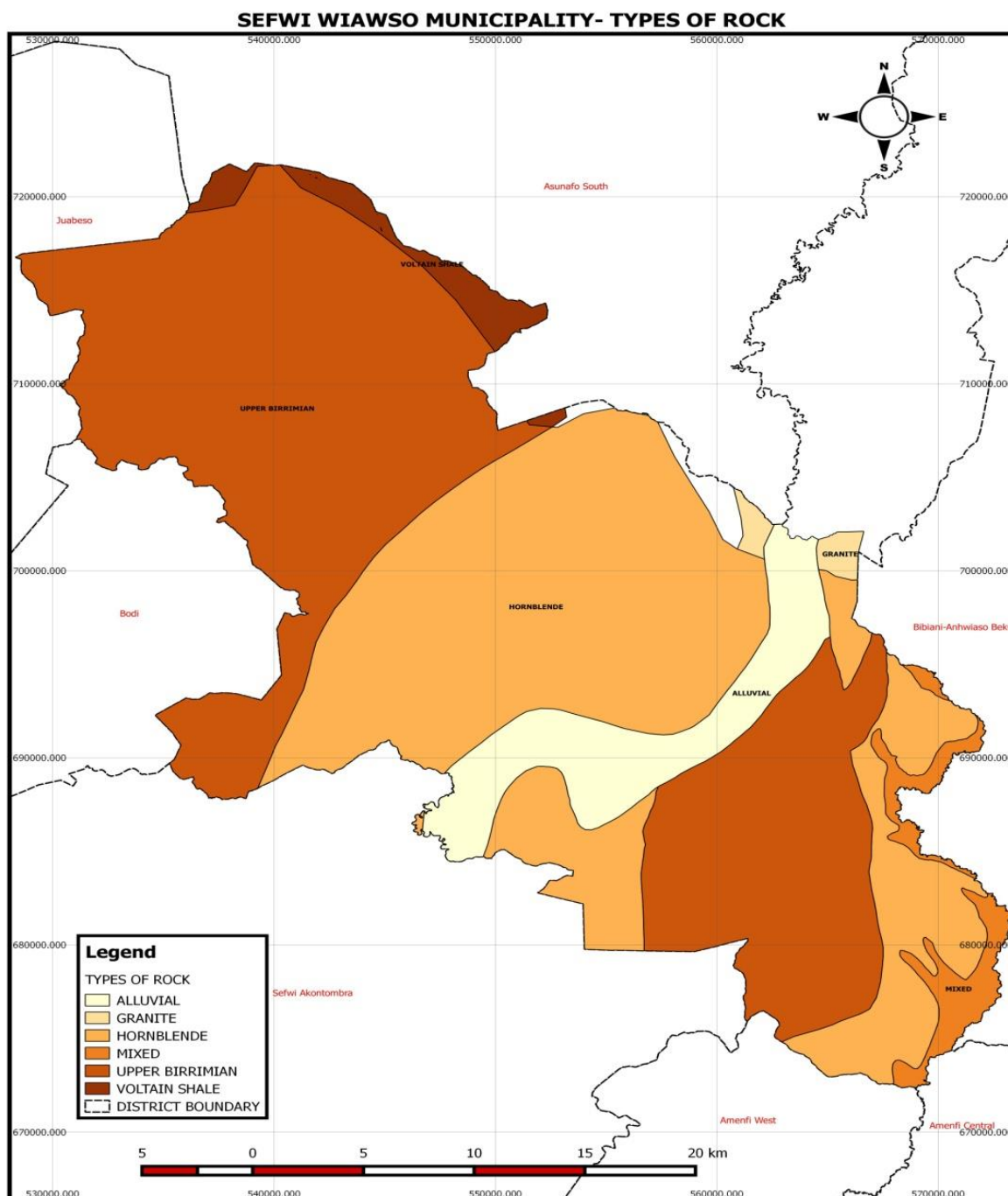


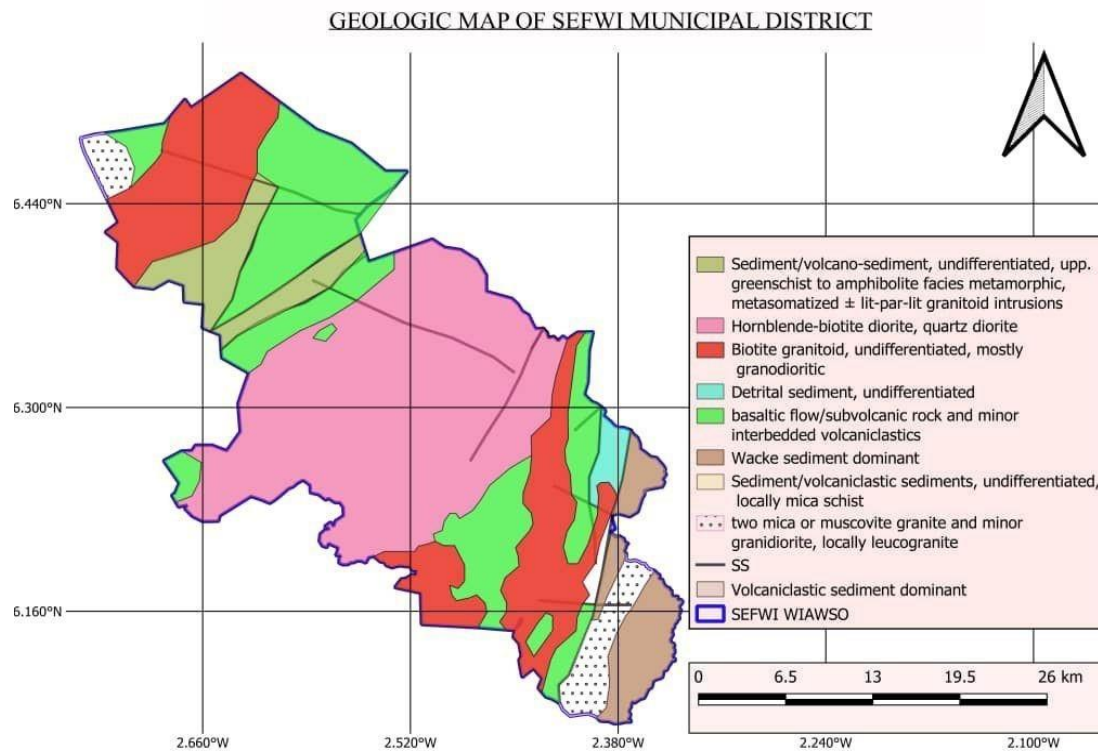
Source:SWMA, MPCU, 2022

2.4.2 Geology and Mineral Deposits

The geology of the Municipality is mainly the Lower and Upper Birimian types with the Lower Birimian formation to the East and North Eastern part of the Municipality. These are volcanic rocks, which have been solidified from molten materials (lava). The occasional granite intrusions give the Municipality its undulating nature and form part of the long hill ranges known as the Bibiani range. These are often steep and strongly dissected. There are gold deposits at Kokokrom, Paboase and Akoti areas. The figure below shows the geology of the Municipality.

Figure 7: Map of Sefwi Wiawso Municipality Showing Rock Types



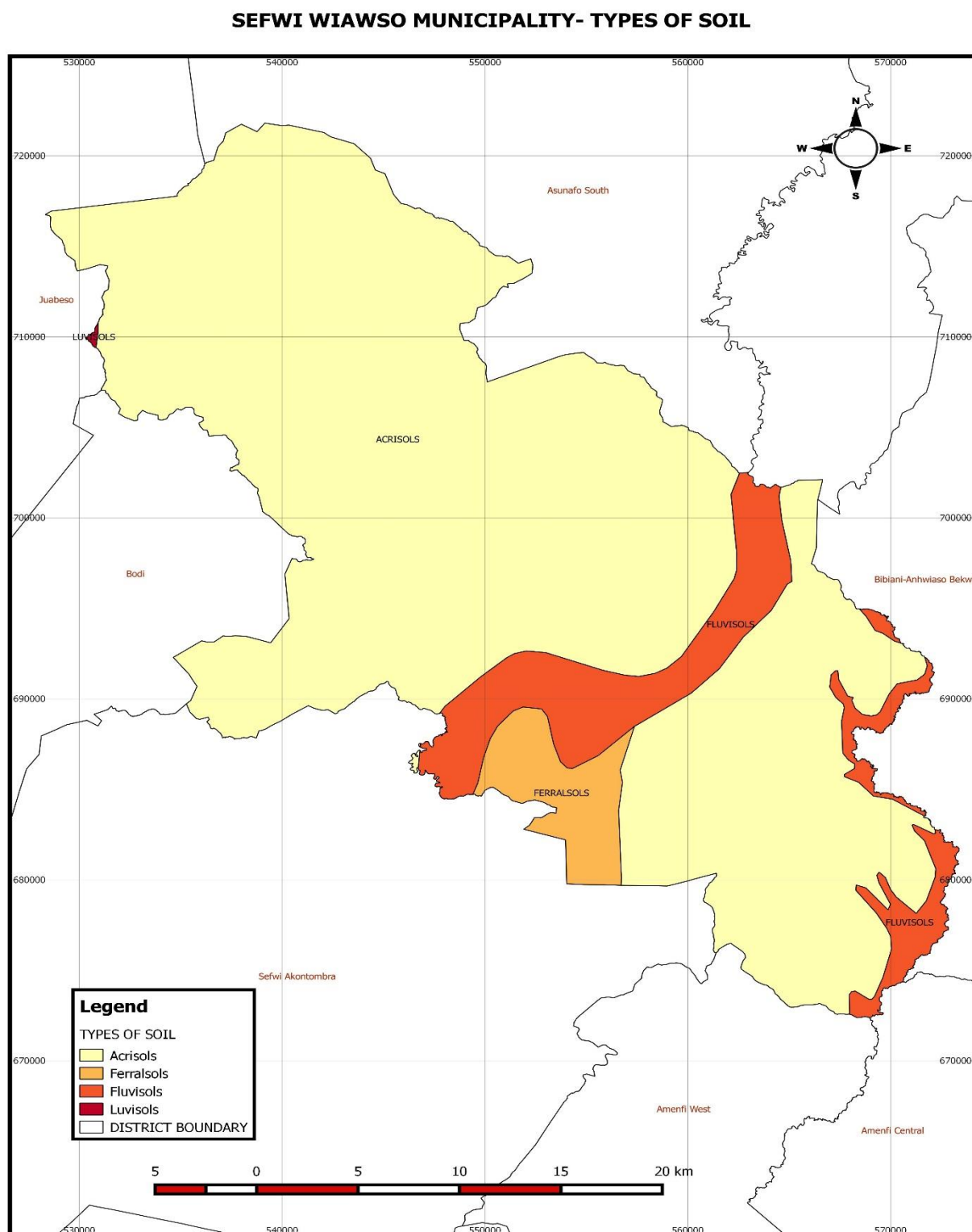


Source: SWMA, MPCU, 2023

2.4.3 Soils

The most widespread is the forest Ochrosols, which covers most of the Northern and Western parts of the Municipality. The forest Ochrosols and Oxysols are rich soils, which support the cultivation of cash and food crops, such as cocoa, palm tree, cola, coffee, cashew, plantains, cocoyam, cassava and maize, with high yields in the Municipality.

Figure 8: Map of Sefwi Wiawso Municipality showing soil types



Source: SWMA, MPCU, 2022

2.4.4 Vegetation and Forest Reserve Cover

The Sefwi Wiawso Municipality falls within the moist semi-deciduous forest zone of Ghana, which covers most of Ashanti, Western, Brong Ahafo and Eastern Regions. The forest type consists of the Celtic triplochiton association. Common species found are Onyina, Odum, Wawa, Mahogany, Sapele, Emire Asamfina, Red cedar, among others.

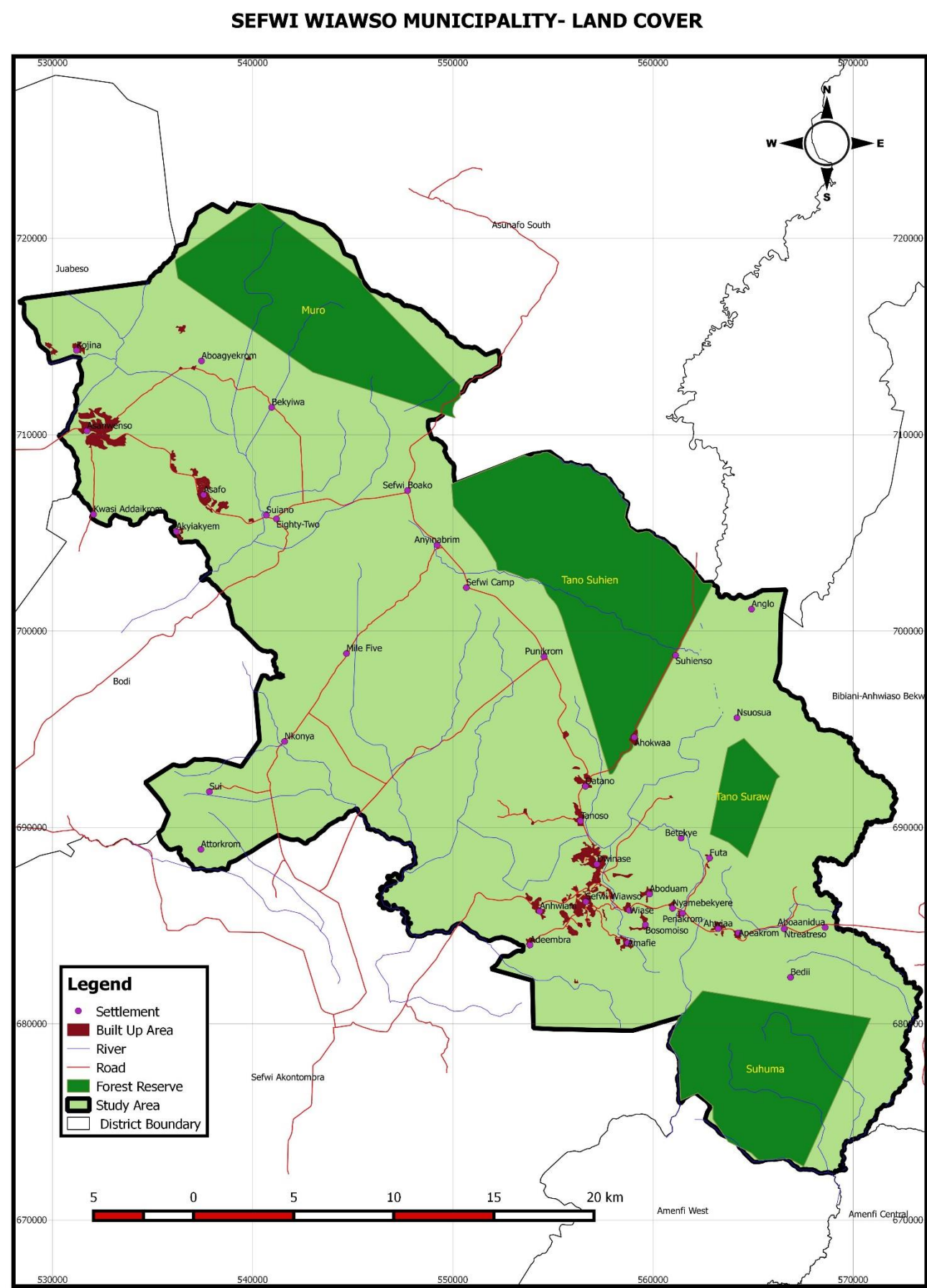
There is a high degree of depletion of the original forest as large sections of the forest are now secondary due to improper farming practices and logging. Due to this, a large section of the forest totalling 226.41km² has been put under reserves. The Municipality has four (4) forest reserves as depicted by the table below and the map below:

Table 2: Total Forest reserves in the Municipality

S/N	NAME OF RESERVE	AREA (KM ²)
1	Muro	11.94
2	Suhuma	57.44
3	Tano Suhiem	91.78
4	Tano Suraw	65.25
Total		226.41

Source: SWMA, MPCU, 2024

Figure 9: Map of Sefwi Wiawso Municipality showing land cover



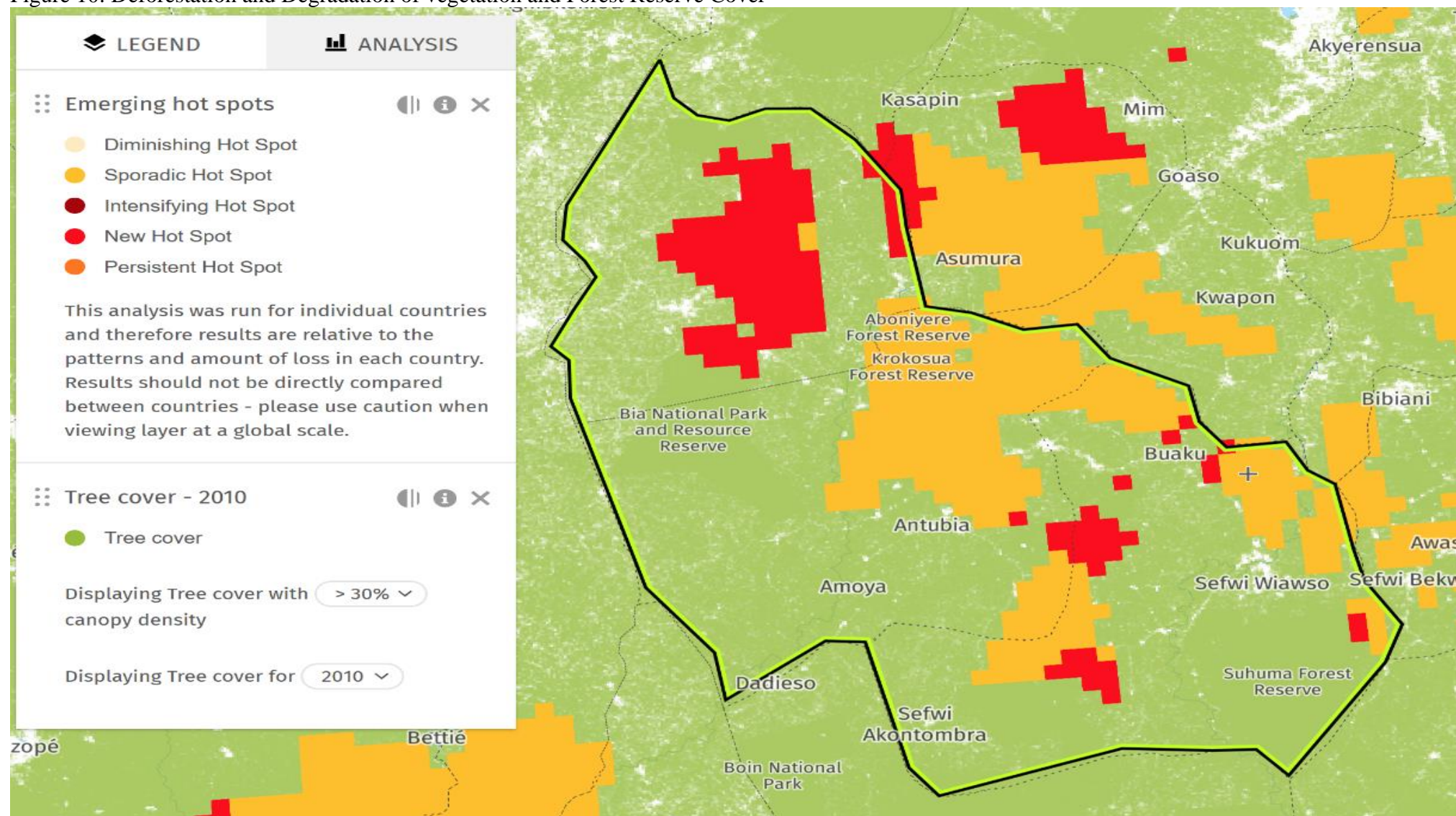
Source:SWMA, MPCU, 2022

2.4.4.1 Deforestation and Degradation of vegetation and Forest Reserve Cover

The Sefwi Wiawso Municipality falls within the moist semi-deciduous forest zone of Ghana. The forest type consists of the Celtic triplochiton association. Common species found are Onyina, Odum, Wawa, Mahogany, Sapele, Emire, Asamfina, Red cedar, among others. Until three decades ago, most forest reserves in the Sefwi-Wiawso area had good tree cover and maintained their compositional integrity as forests. However, in the last decade, a combination of intense uncontrolled illegal farming, chainsaw activities and to a lesser extent illegal mining have degraded more than 50% of forest reserves e.g. Sui River Forest Reserves. In other forest reserves, e.g. Muro, human settlement and agricultural expansion have almost completely wiped out the forest cover within the past three decades. Within the Municipality, only the Santomang forest reserve remains in good condition as a forest.

Deforestation hotspot and trajectory in Sefwi-Wiawso are exemplified by what is currently happening at Sui River Forest Reserve, where the rate of deforestation changed from 0.3% in 2001-2009 to 1.1% in 2010-2019. Farmers and communities fringing this reserve have illegally extended their farm boundaries (encroached) into the Sui Forest Reserve and hence caused deforestation.

Figure 10: Deforestation and Degradation of vegetation and Forest Reserve Cover



GFW map of JB and SW landscapes showing current deforestation hotspot as of April 2020

Table 3: Status of Forest Reserves in the Sefwi Wiawso Municipality

Source: SWMA, MPCU, 2024

Name of Forest District	Name Of Forest Reserve and Size in Ha.	Size of Degraded Area (Ha)	Size of Degraded Area (Ha)	Size of Potential Area (Ha) Available for Restoration	Total Number of Trees Planted	Number of Men Involved in Restoration or Tree Planting in Forest Reserves	Number of Women Involved in Restoration or Tree Planting in Forest Reserves
Sefwi-Wiawso	Sui River	1,090	976.1	114	1,500,877	550	1,700
	Muro	1,010	969	41	1,200,559	150	375
	Suhuma	100	47.1	53	600,281	35	80
	Tano Suhien	375	202	173	300,442	91	152
	Total	2,575	2,194.21	381	3,602,159	826	2,307

Off-reserve deforestation took place more than three decades ago. Despite its importance for restoration planning, no official records of the size of degraded areas outside forest reserves have been compiled both at community and Municipal levels. Agriculture practices include removal of tree cover to usually less than 10% in most areas. In Sefwi-Wiawso, most cocoa farms have only between 15-30% timber tree canopy cover on cocoa in more than 80% of cocoa farms. There is a high degree of depletion of the original forest as large sections of the forest are now secondary due to improper farming practices and logging that needs to be addressed.

- **Climate (Temperature and Rainfall)**

The Municipality falls within the tropical rainforest climatic zone with high temperatures throughout the year between 25C -30C and moderate to heavy rainfall between 1524mm-1780mm per annum with double maximum characteristics in June-July and September-October as peaks. Humidity is relatively high, which is about 90% at night falling to 75% during the day. The average monthly rainfall figures for Sefwi Wiawso are shown below in mm:

Table 4: Rainfall Pattern

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
21.1	57.1	133.8	148.3	181.3	250.9	132.5	64.7	158.4	204.9	102.3	33.2	1488.7

The rainfall distribution pattern, as indicated above, is quite important for agricultural activities. That is, two long wet seasons are separated by a short relatively dry season. The dry season is marked by relatively low humidity and hazy conditions occurring from December to February. Because humidity is relatively higher during the dry season, the Municipality experiences fewer or no bush fire outbreaks. Also, the Municipality often experience concentrated downpours up to 178mm rainfall in a day, which often causes widespread flooding (as occurs at Dwinase at times) and makes laterite roads temporarily impassable. Project implementation during the period is

greatly hampered. Most claims for price fluctuations on contracts result from delays in project implementation, which are occasioned by the sporadic rainfall patterns experienced in the Municipality.

- **Condition of the Natural Environment**

The natural vegetation cover has given way to secondary forest over most of the Municipality because of exploitation of timber and bad farming practices. Consequently, Deforestation caused by indiscriminate felling of trees and encroachment by illegal farmers on the forest reserves has become a major environmental concern. In addition, bad farming practices, including slash and burn, have resulted in soil degradation. Also, the heavy rainfall experienced in the Municipality cause erosion of the soils, especially on the hilly areas and slopes leading to serious leaching in most of the farmlands.

Another major environmental problem is the disposal of solid and liquid waste in river bodies near major settlements such as the Tano River, Bolowa and Kusin streams near Dwinase, a suburb of Wiawso. Aqua lives in these river bodies are threatened and their numbers have declined over the years.

- **Hazards, Disaster and Security**

The hazard and disasters that confront the Municipality are bushfires, flooding along the big rivers and low-lying areas, rainstorms. These disasters usually destroy the properties wealth of millions of Ghana cedis leading to loss of incomes and properties of the individual, the communities and the Municipality as a whole. Except for torrential rainfalls, pest insect infestation such as armyworm and anthrax and occasional bush and domestic fires which sometimes cause extensive destruction to crops and properties, the Municipality is not seriously prone to natural disasters. This could serve as an incentive to attract potential investors to the Municipality.

The general security situation in the Municipality is peaceful, calm and stable which is necessary to attract any form of investment. Mostly, factors such as land litigation, armed robbery, communal violence and other serious crimes are virtually absent in the Municipality and if there is any, it is very minimal and does not affect the peace, unity and stability of the Municipality. However, with Sefwi Wiawso status as the Regional capital, there is the need to beef up security as a lot of people will move to the capital to engage in all forms of activities and bad nuts may also join to engage in all forms of crime.

- **Transport Infrastructure**

The Municipality is strategically located with accessibility to road as its main mode of transportation. The Municipality has a total length of 93.5km of highways. There is 40km of urban roads, 217km of feeder roads and 131.2km of trunk roads in the Municipality. Out of this, 28km of urban roads, 78km of feeder roads and 30km trunk roads are accessible. Most roads in the Municipality are in deplorable conditions and affecting the local economy.

2.5 Settlement and Other built environments

- **Conditions of the Built Environment**

The built environment (settlements) in the Municipality lacks development control or settlement plans. Settlements are built haphazardly with poor quality building materials, which have resulted in poor housing quality and its effect on the green economy. Most houses have structural defects: extensive cracks, appear dilapidated, weak foundations, and ripped off or leaking roofs. The dilapidated and poor structures also serve as death traps and a health hazard to the inhabitants which has serious implications on the already small incomes of the people and the government.

- **Settlement Pattern**

The Municipality is predominantly rural with 64.2% of the population living in the villages and hamlets. The distribution of population is skewed with about 70% living within the 20 km of the main highways that is Aboanidua-Wiawso-Benchima roads. The total number of settlements in the Municipality is 102 as of now. It is made up of 5 urban towns (Sefwi Wiawso, Dwinase, Boako, Asafo and Asawinso) and 97 rural communities. The Municipality now has 19 major settlements with a population above 1500.

- **Location and Distribution of Service**

The 19 major settlements have relative access to social services such as primary school, junior secondary, senior secondary school, public places of convenience, safe water, hospitals, clinics, health centres. The distribution of services is skewed towards the first five (5) hierarchies, namely Wiawso, Asawinso, Asafo, Dwinase and Boako. These settlements have access to almost all the social infrastructure available in the Municipality. Services such as primary schools, bore holes, wells, markets, electricity and agricultural extension are enjoyed by the majority of settlements, whilst only a few towns have access to some high level of services like hospitals, health centres, police stations, and secondary schools.

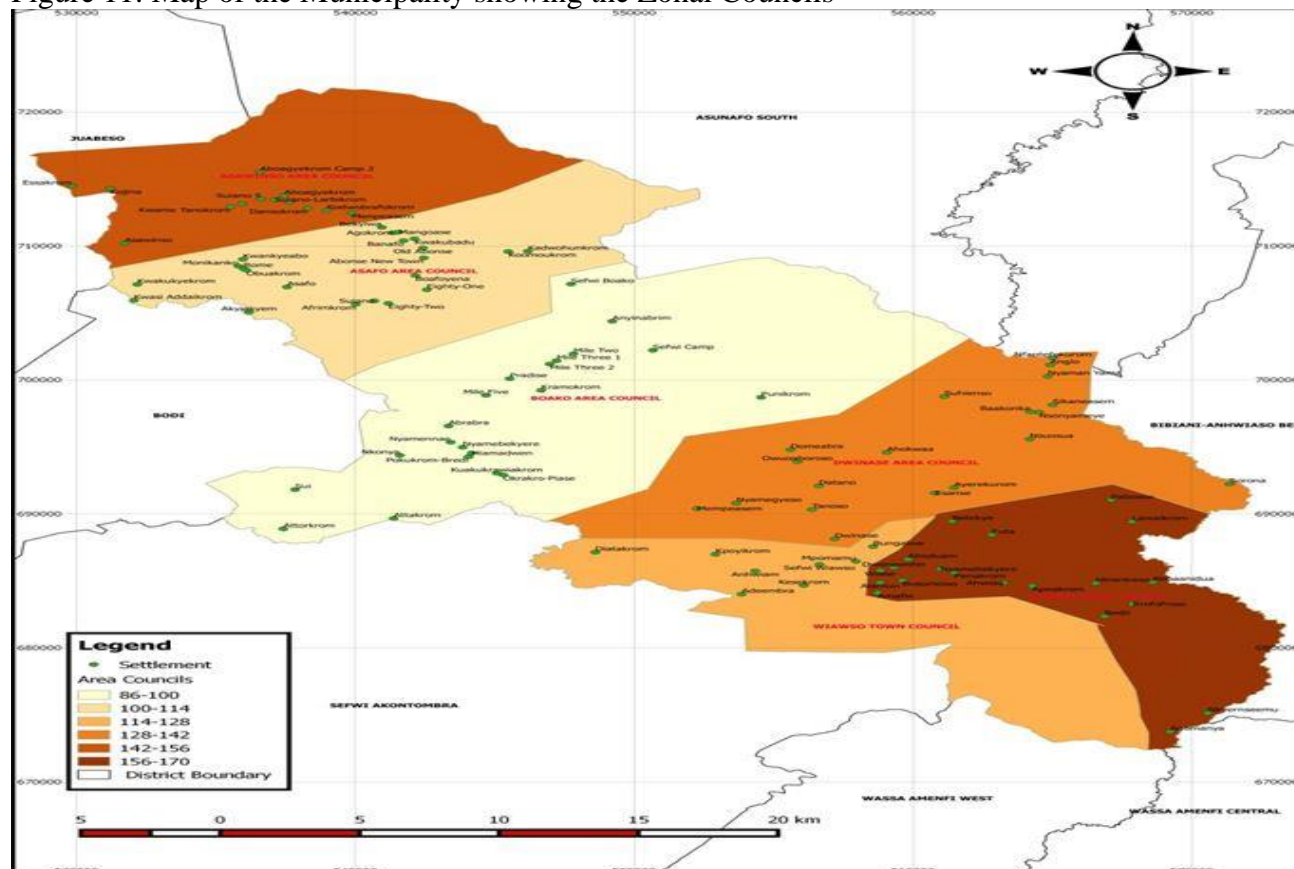
- **Housing Stock**

Out of a total household population of 24, 076,327 in the country 135,568 are in the Municipality. There is a total of 23,246 houses, with a total household number of 30,074 in the Municipality. With a total household population, the proportion urban is 35.5%, while rural constituted 64.5%. It is indicated that the proportion of houses in the rural locality (68.8%) is more than those in the urban locality (31.2%). The population per house in the rural locality is 5.5 and that for urban is 6.6, both are more than the national and Regional average. The number of households in the rural area (61.4%) is more than in the urban areas (38.6%), with the average household per house being 1.2 for rural areas and 1.6 for the urban areas. This could be as a result of urbanization and rural-urban migration for education, business and work. The average household size in the rural areas was more (4.7) than the Municipality average household size (4.5) and the region (4.2).

- **Political Administration**

Sefwi Wiawso Municipal Assembly has one constituency with a political Head, who is the Municipal Chief Executive and an Administrative Head, who is also the Municipal Co-ordinating Director. The Assembly has six (6) Zonal Councils which are Anhwia, Dwinase, Boako, Asafo, Asawinso and Wiawso. The Municipal Assembly is made up of 46 Assembly Members including government appointees.

Figure 11: Map of the Municipality showing the Zonal Councils



Source:SWMA,MPCU,2022

CHAPTER THREE

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STRUCTURE

3.1 Location and Distribution of Service

There are about 20 major settlements that have relative access to social services such as primary school, junior high school, senior high school, public places of convenience, safe water, hospitals, clinics, health centres etc. Distribution of services is skewed towards the first four (4) hierarchies, namely Wiawso, Asawinso, Asafo, and Boako. These settlements have access to almost all the social infrastructure available in the Municipality. Services such as primary schools, bore holes, wells, markets, electricity and agricultural extension are enjoyed by majority of settlements, whilst only a few towns have access to some high level of services like hospital, health centres, police stations, and senior high schools.

- **Governance**

The Municipal Assembly is the highest political, administrative and planning authority, representing the Central Government in the Municipality. The Legislative Instrument LI 1386 establishing the Sefwi Wiawso Municipality Assembly was made on 23rd November, 1988 under PNDC Law 207 and replaced by the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936).

The Municipal Assembly is made up of Six (6) Zonal Councils. These Municipal administrative structures are symbols of community participation. They form a basis for the effective distribution of infrastructural services at the Municipal level. There are forty-five (45) Assembly members made up of thirty-one (31) elected members and fourteen (14) government appointees. The Assembly covers One (1) constituency namely; Sefwi Wiawso. Stakeholders are identified based on projects, programmes or activities to be undertaken by the assembly. This is done using a stakeholder analysis matrix (Impact and Influence) to determine stakeholders to be engaged in decision making with a special interest in the vulnerable groups such as women and youth.

The Zonal Councils are not fully resourced to ensure effective decentralisation.

Table 5: Sub-Structures of Sefwi Wiawso Municipal Assembly

STRUCTURE	NO. OF UNIT COM.	NO. OF ELECTORAL AREAS
1. Wiawso Zonal Council	6	6
2. Dwinase Zonal Council	6	6
3. Boako Zonal Council	8	8
4. Ahwiaa Zonal Council	4	4
5. Asafo Zonal council	3	3
6. Asawinso Zonal Council	4	4
Total	31	31

Source: MPCU, 2024

- **Traditional Authority**

The Sefwi Wiawso Municipality has one traditional council, that is, the Sefwi Wiawso Traditional Council, which is headed by the Paramount Chief of the Traditional Area (Omanhene), with the title Katakylie. The traditional Area also includes the whole of the political municipalities of Juaboso, Akontombra, Bodi, Bia East and Bia West. The Traditional Council has a membership of 65 Chiefs.

3.2 Education

One policy objective under education is to increase equitable access to and participation in quality education at all levels. The policy is also aimed at improving the quality of teaching and learning; bridge the gender gap and improving access to education for people with disability. Science and technical education are also to be promoted alongside health education on key public health issues such as HIV and AIDS and road safety.

Education management in the Municipality is the responsibility of the Municipal Directorate of Education which is located in Wiawso. The Assembly is however responsible for the provision of educational infrastructure and furniture. The Municipality has a fair share of educational institution ranging from nursery to tertiary institutions.

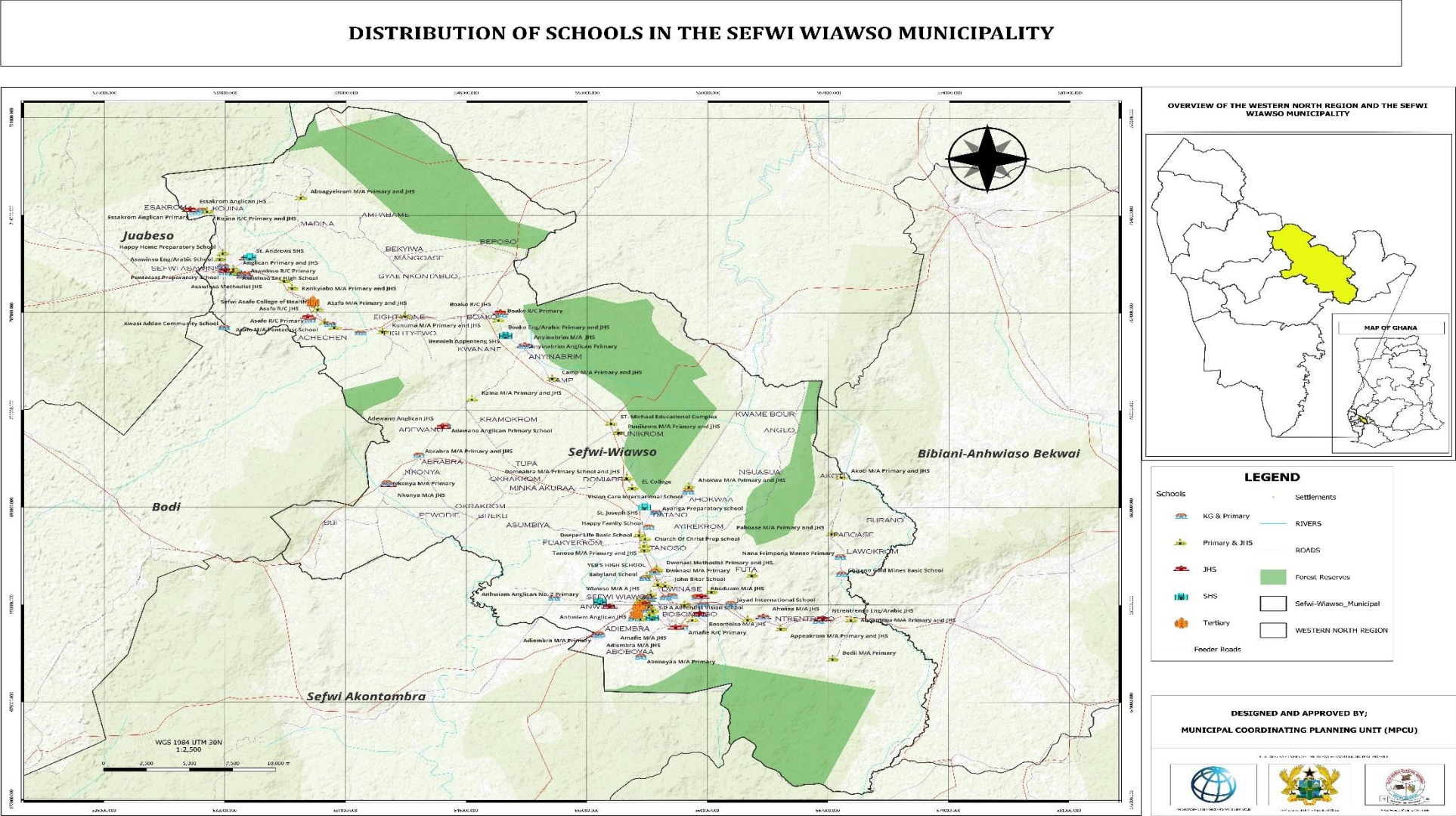
The table below shows type of educational institution in the Municipality and the total number of such institutions as at December, 2024.

Table 6: Number of Educational Institutions in the Municipality

S/N	Types of Educational institution	Total in the Municipality
1	Nursery	35
2	Kindergarten	123
3	Primary	123
4	JHS	114
5	SHS	4
6	Tertiary	3

Source: SWMA, MPCU, 2024

Figure 12: Map showing educational facilities in SWMA



Source: SWMA, MPCU, 2024

3.3 Health

The key objective under the health sector is to bridge the equity gaps in access to health care and nutritional services, ensure sustainable financing arrangement to protect the poor patients, improve health infrastructure, strengthen efficiency in health service delivery, improve maternal and child health and controlling the incidence of malaria, TB, HIV and AIDS/STI. While the Assembly continues to provide infrastructural facilities to promote health especially in the deprived communities, the Municipal Directorate of Health manages and coordinated the health delivery programmes.

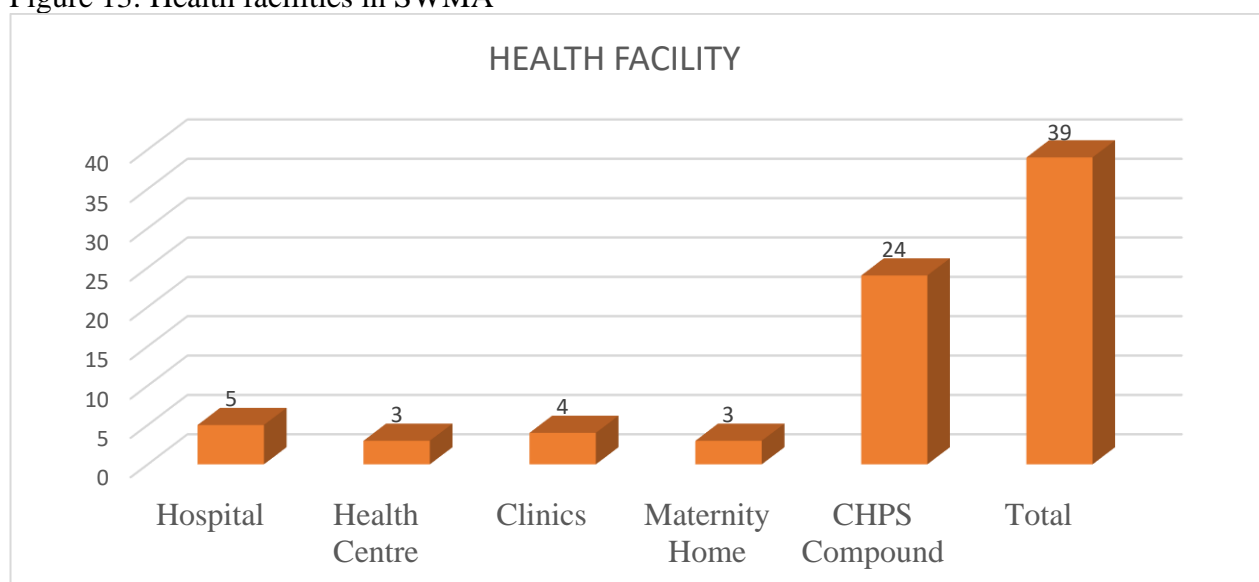
The Municipal Assembly has a total of thirty-two (32) health facilities. It includes, hospitals, clinics, health centres, CHPS and maternity homes.

Table 7: Health Facility by Provider

Categories	NO.
Hospital	5
Health Centre	3
Clinics	4
Maternity Home	3
CHPS Compound	24
Total	39

Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

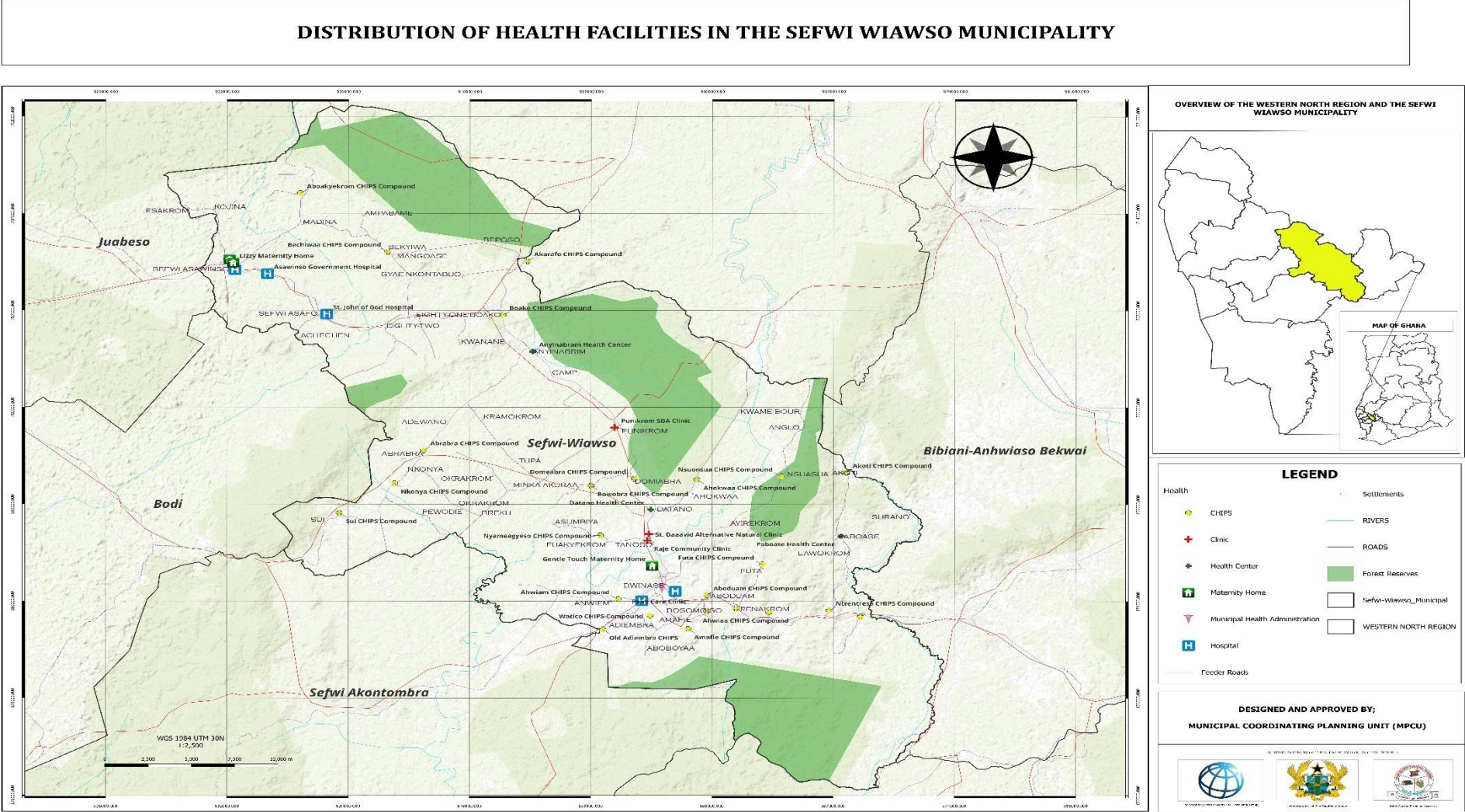
Figure 13: Health facilities in SWMA



Source: Municipal Health Directorate, 2024

The Municipality is blessed with a number of health facilities both private and public. The figure below shows the facilities and their spatial location within the Municipality:

Figure 14: Health Facilities and their spatial location within the Municipality



Source: SWMA, MPCU, 2024

3.4 Culture

The cultural practice of the people of the Municipality is not different from the rest of the Akan speaking communities in the country. The Municipality has one traditional council, that is, the Sefwi Wiawso Traditional Council, which is headed by the Paramount Chief of the Traditional Area (Omanhene), with the title Okogyebour. The Traditional Area also includes the whole of the political districts of Juaboso, Bodi, Akontombra, Bia East and West. The traditional council has a membership of 65 Chiefs. The inheritance system is matrilineal. The Omanhene and the people of the traditional area celebrate Yam Festival or ('Aluelue') which is celebrated from November to December. The sub-chiefs within the paramountcy then celebrate their festivals on convenient dates between December and February. With regards to ethnicity, the Sefwi's (Akan) form 78.6 percent. Other minority groups include Mole-Dagbani, Krobos, Ewes and others form the remaining 21.4 percent.

3.5 Religion

Christianity forms the majority of the religious group in the Municipality constituting 81.7 percent with others; Islamic, traditionalist and no religion forming the remaining 18.3 percent.

CHAPTER FOUR

MUNICIPAL ECONOMY

4.1 Economy

The Sefwi Wiawso Municipality is a predominantly rural economy, with agriculture and its ancillary activities being the main live stay of the people. Agriculture employs about 74% of the active population. The annual levels of agricultural production and profitability, therefore, determine household income levels. Thus, it is significant to note a remarkable improvement in household income and expenditure during the food and cash crops harvest seasons, especially during the cocoa buying seasons of September to February. There is therefore the need to support cocoa farmers with alternative livelihood. Other economic activities that serve as employment to the 26% of the labour force include logging and lumbering, information and communication industry, public and civil service, petty trading, hotel and catering industries, finance and insurance, as well as auto mechanics, dressmaking and hairdressing.

4.1.1 Food Processing

The agricultural produce which is processed to some appreciable extent continues to be cassava, oil palm, coconut and sugar cane. Whilst cassava is processed into flour, dough and *Gari*, palm oil/palm kernel oil is extracted from the palm nuts, coconut oil extracted from coconut, and sugar-cane processed into a local gin (*akpeteshie*). However, in all of the above cases, the technologies employed are low, resulting in low conversion rates. This has negative implications for the incomes of the farmers, processors and the local economy.

4.1.2 Agricultural Activities

Agriculture is the major economic activity in the Municipality in terms of employment and income generation, with about ninety percent (74%) of the working population engaged in this sector, comprising of twenty-five percent females (21%) and sixty five percent males (53%) which constitutes the main source of household income in the Municipality. Some of the crops include cocoa, palm tree, plantains, cocoyam, cassava and maize.

4.1.3 Manufacturing

The Sefwi Wiawso Municipality is not noted for large scale manufacturing industries despite the fact that it has the potential in terms of availability of cocoa, for instance, which could serve as the raw material base for the establishment of a large-scale cocoa processing industry. However, there are four timber-processing factories, namely:

COMPANY		TYPE OF PROCESSING
a) Suhuma Timber company	-	Timber Processing
b) Buadac Company	-	Timber Processing
c) T. Andrews Ent. Ltd	-	Timber Processing
d) A- List Co. Ltd	-	Timber Processing
e) Namoro Timber Ltd	-	Timber Processing
f) Dongfung Timber Industries	-	Timber Processing
g) Anwonakrom	-	Gari processing

4.1.4 Economic Resources (Potentials)

Sefwi Wiawso Municipality has enormous economic potentials of which if harnessed could make the Municipality one of the richest in the country.

The Municipality is the second largest producer of cocoa in the Western Region. It produces nearly 6000 metric tons of cocoa annually and has the potential for expansion.

4.1.5 Economic Infrastructure

The major economic infrastructure of the Municipality is its road network, which is the vehicle for accelerated progress, is in bad shape. It consists of 234.5km of highways and 514km of feeder roads.

There are vibrant weekly markets centres located at Dwinase Asawinso and Boako. These attract large number of traders from Accra, Takoradi, Kumasi and Tamale.

There is also the existence of small scale agro-processing industries like cassava, rice, plantain and palm oil.

4.1.6 Tourist Attraction

The Sefwi Wiawso Municipality abounds in rich tourism potential which when harnessed could serve as second employment after agriculture. The following are some identified tourist sites found within the Municipality that the assembly has prepared enabling environment to partner the private sector to development them as the Municipality has attain a Regional capital status.

- **The Tree of God (NyameDua)**

The Tree of God is located at Nyamebekyere, a distance of about 5 km from Wiawso. It is told that about 150 years ago, a farmer stuck a machete into the stump of a tree. The tree re-started to grow and has continued to grow ever since. Today the machete is completely surrounded by the trunk of the tree.

- **Okomfo Anokye Akoma**

This is sacred grove located in Amafie, a distance of 3 km or 25 minutes' walk from Wiawso the Municipal capital. The legendary fetish priest, Okomfo Anokye of the Golden Stool fame of the Asante Kingdom, was believed to have practiced his trade here. He was reported to have danced and made acrobatic displays on a rope tied between two distant trees, like the legendary Niagara Dare devil of Niagara Falls.

- **Abombirim Sacred Tortoise Forest**

It is a sacred forest preserve in which a giant tortoise lives. When one sees the tortoise and picks it, there turn to be total darkness in the forest. Until such a time that the tortoise is left for light to re-appear, one will not be able to find a way out of the forest. It is located at Sefwi Boako, a 21 km distance from Sefwi Wiawso.

- **The Ancestral Hole of Bosomoiso**

The Royal family of Bosomoiso, a community of 4 km away from Wiawso, is believed to have originated from this hole. It is believed to be a bottomless hole. It is surrounded by trees but no leaf falls into it. The hole is alleged to have healing powers.

- **Elluo Festival**

This traditional festival of the Sefwi's which is the first since Nana Nkuah Okumadom, the Omanhene of the Sefwi traditional area came to power on the 17th to 22nd of December, 2001. Elluo means "yam festival". In the olden days the only staple food of the people of Sefwi was yam. When the yam was due to be harvested no one could eat any till the festival was celebrated during which rituals were performed to purify the yam for bumper harvest. The festival starts on Wednesday. Drums are beaten and everybody appears in mourning clothes. Wake is kept for it is the period that all departed souls in every home are remembered. On Thursday, a section of the Abesi Division of the six in the Sefwi Wiawso traditional area goes to the Kolika River to catch a crab. It is believed that the early settlers in their bid to find water as a prerequisite for the proper settlement came across the crab and the story was told.

The crab was therefore seen as a sign of hope, long life and prosperity hence the catching of the crab each time the festival is celebrated. If a crab is not found the festival cannot be celebrated.

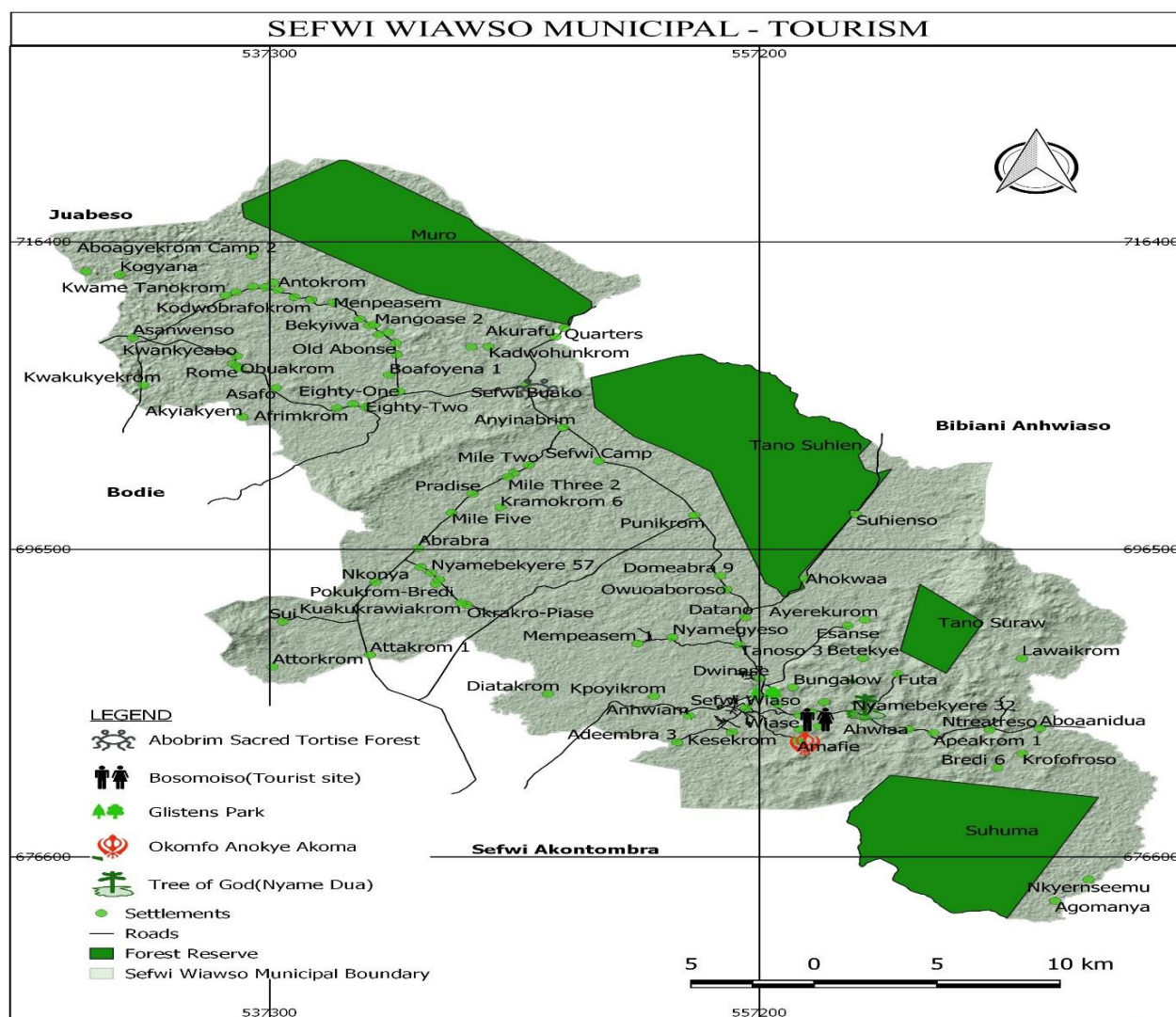
They later send it to the palace and transfers it to the Omanhene by hanging it on their neck. After the ceremony all will be set for showering of blessing from the gods, prosperity and long life. People rush to be marked for its believed that, if one doesn't get marked, he/she may not live to see the celebration of another Elluo Festival. On Friday, in the morning all black stools are sent to the Kolika River for purification. After that the Omanhene is also brought to the same river for spiritual bath. He comes in the company of the Gyasihene and the Nsosuahene.

After his bath, he changes his mourning cloth for a very beautiful cloth decorated with rich ornaments. After that three-gun shots are fired into the air to inform the rest of the chiefs who will

be waiting 200 meters away that all is set, they also change their mourning cloths for celebration once. They all get into their palanquins and get set for the procession on the main road. After this ritual all is about set for the people to eat the newly harvested yam.

The first person to test it is the Omanhene. On the first occasion he spits the mashed yam out to his left. The second to his right and the third to the front. On the fourth occasion he eats it. After which everybody could enjoy his/her harvest. However, if one is found eating the yam before this time, he/she is made an outcast since he brings calamity to the people of the town. There is much eating and jubilation on Saturday.

Figure 15: Tourism Map of Sefwi Wiawso Municipality



Source: SWMA, MPCU, 2024

4.1.7 Mining

Large deposit of gold has been discovered at Akoti and its surrounding areas. It is being mined in commercial quantities by Ashanti Gold Chirano Limited, an Australian mining firm. It commenced

commercial production in 2004 which contributes to the internally generated funds of the Assembly and also provides employment opportunities for the people.

4.1.8 Hospitality Industry

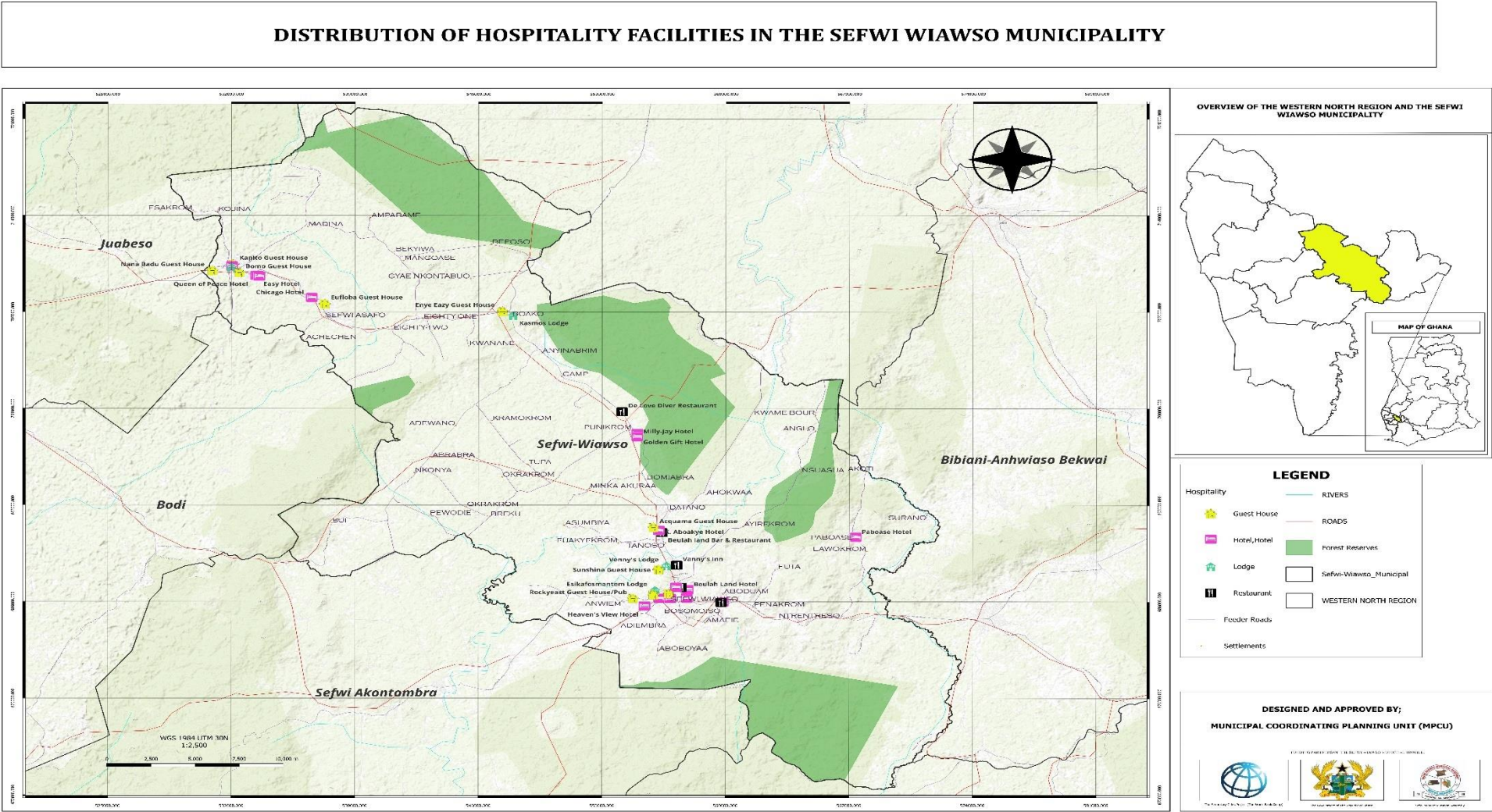
The hospitality industry of the Municipality is developing to support the tourist attraction. There are a number of hotels within the Municipality and a number of decent restaurants (chop bars), which are operated by local entrepreneurs. The table below shows types of hospitality in the Municipality.

Table 8: Type of Hotel Facilities in the Municipality

S/N	Type of Hotel	Number
1	Hotel	16
2	Guest house	10
3	Lodge	5
4	Restaurant	5
TOTAL		36

Source: SWMA, MPCU, 2024

Figure 17: Hospitality Facilities Municipality



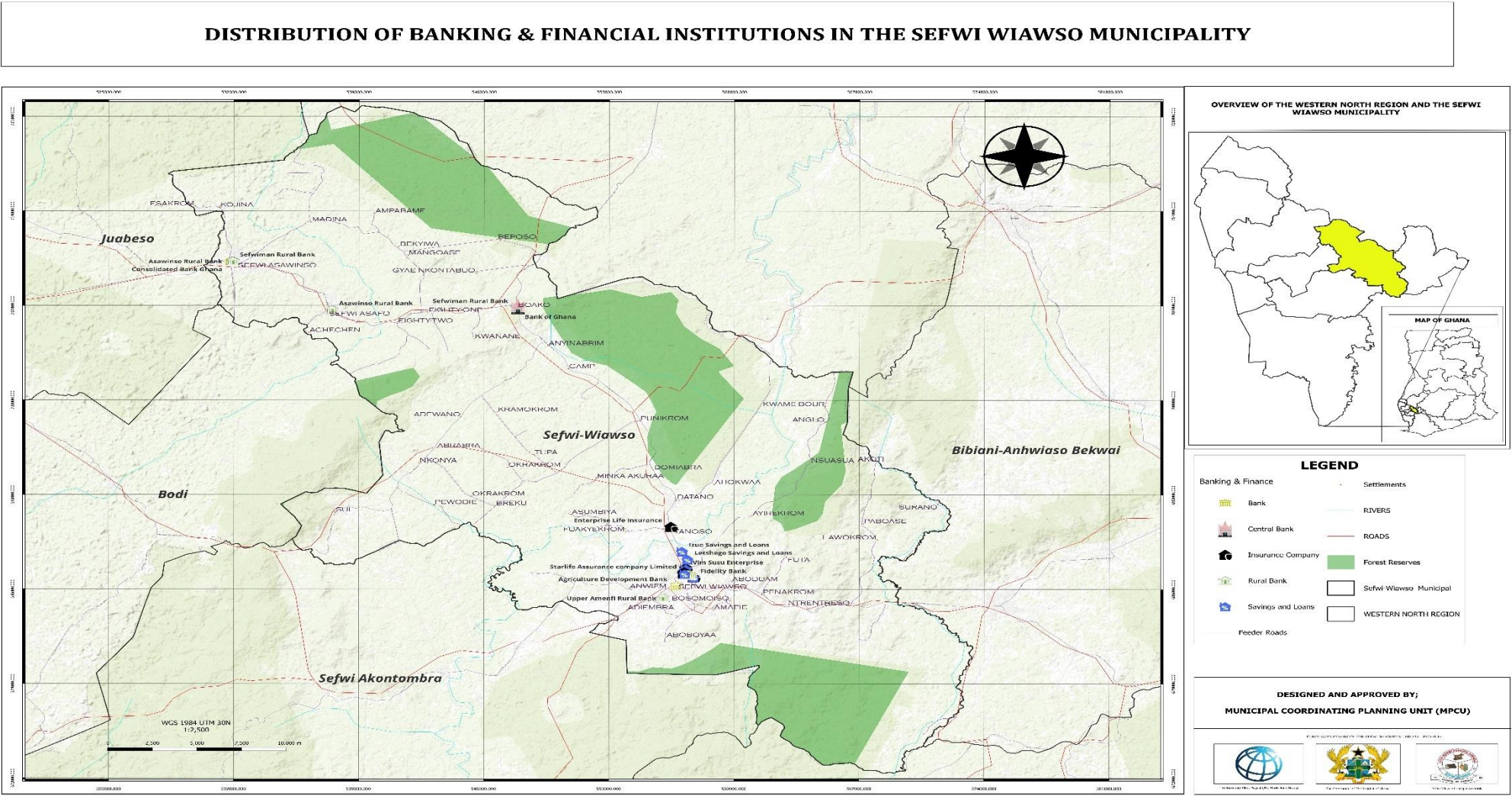
Source:SWMA, MPCU, 2024

Food and accommodation are not a problem in the Municipality because, there are a number of food joints hotels. Also, tourist who comes to the Municipality do not have any issues with accommodation due to the availability of hotels and guest house in the Municipality.

4.1.9 Financial Institutions

Due to the Municipality's strategic importance in the cocoa and timber industry, it has attracted a number of Banks like, Ghana Commercial bank (GCB), Republic Bank, Agriculture Development Bank (ADB), consolidated Bank Ghana (CBG) and Access Bank. There are rural banks within the Municipality which includes: Amenfiman Rural Bank, Sefwiman Rural Bank, Upper Amenfi Rural Bank, Asawinso Rural Bank, Opportunity savings and loans, Snapi Aba savings and loans, Liberty savings and loans, Quick credit savings and loans, Bayport savings and loans and Saint Francis saving and loans. There are also insurance companies within the Municipality which include: Mi-life, Star Assurance, Glico, enterprise life and State Insurance Company (SIC). Etc. Bank of Ghana Western North branch is also located at Boako. The figure 17 below shows the spatial locations of the Financial Institutions within the Municipality.

Figure 16: Financial institutions in the Municipality



Source:SWMA, MPCU, 2024

4.1.10 Mail Service

There is one main Post Office at Wiawso, the Municipal capital, and other Postal branches located at Boako, Asawinso, Asafo, and Dwinase. The Municipality has access to courier services such as EMS by Ghana Post Company Limited, DHL, and FedEx etc.

4.1.11 Transportation

The Municipality has a number of transport service for easy and safe movement from the Municipality and within the Municipality. These transport services include: State Transport Cooperation (STC), VIP, OA, VVIP, GPRTU, Neoplan and Metro-Mass transit.

4.1.12 Radio stations

The Municipal Assembly has a number of radio stations which convey information to its members. These radio stations are as follows: Faith FM, Ghana Broadcasting Cooperation (unik FM), Sunset FM, Liberty FM, and De-beat FM. There are also hundreds of community information centres in the Municipality.

4.1.13 Internet Facility

The Municipal Assembly has established a Community Information Centre which is open to the general public and also an ultra-modern computer and library centre set up by the Chirano Gold Mines at Wiawso. This centre provides Computer Training Service and Internet service to the populace. Some private individuals have also set up Internet Cafes in the Municipality that augment the efforts of the Assembly.

CHAPTER FIVE

INSTITUTION WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY

5.0 Introduction

All government institutions are located within Dwinase and Wiawso Zone. These institutions manage the affairs of government within the Municipality.

5.1 Judicial Services

The judicial service is made up of High Court and a Magistrate Court. These systems have their own premises in the Municipality. Currently the construction of modern Court complex is ongoing at Wiawso to house both High and Magistrate Courts. Residential accommodation is also constructed for the High Court judges to promote accountability and fairness within the Municipality. Security services The Ghana Police Service has two District Headquarters. One divisional headquarters and a regional headquarters office. There are six police station in the Municipality. The Regional headquarters is located in Sefwi Wiawso which is made up of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Arms and Ammunition Unit, Communications Unit and Motor Traffic unit (MTU). Ghana immigration services have one District office and one regional office. However, the Ghana Armed forces are also present in the Municipality with their newly constructed barracks at Sefwi Punikrom. The activities of the security forces in the Municipality have reduce crime in the Municipality.

5.2 Water

Sefwi Wiawso Municipal Assembly has five main categories of water service. It includes; river/stream, stand pipes, handpumps, mechanized boreholes and wells. Asawinso had three (3) categories of water services, with 49 handpump being the highest, followed by 38 mechanized borehole and 3 wells. Boako on the other hand had five (5) categories of water services with 57 handpump being the highest followed by 45 mechanized boreholes. Stand pipe within the Zone is 10, 2 wells and 1 stream. The water and Sanitation Office within the Dwinase zone.

5.3 Mail Service

There is one main Post Office at Wiawso, the Municipal capital, and other Postal branches located at Boako, Asawinso, Asafo, and Dwinase. The Municipality has access to courier services such as EMS by Ghana Post Company Limited, DHL, and FedEx etc.

5.4 Agricultural Activities

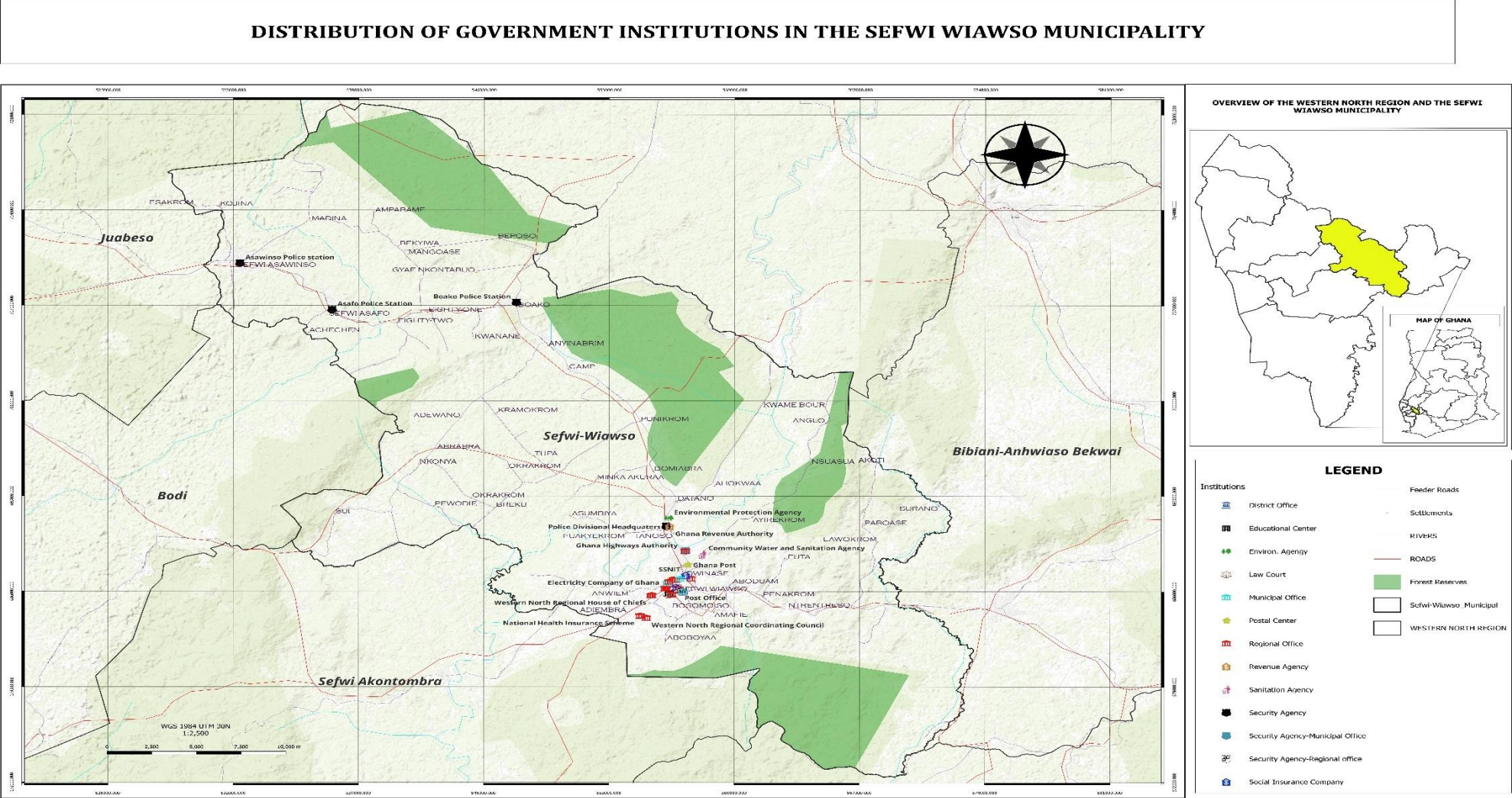
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which constitutes the main source of household income in the Municipality. Some of the crops include cocoa, palm tree, plantains, cocoyam, cassava and maize.

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Figure18: Government Institutions in the Municipality



Source:SWMA, MPCU, 202

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSION

6.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, the Sefwi Wiawso Municipality represents a dynamic and evolving municipality with significant potential for socio-economic growth. Its rich natural resources, agricultural dominance, and strategic location as the capital of the Western North Region provide a solid foundation for development. However, the municipality faces challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, rapid urbanization pressures, and the need for sustainable resource management. Moving forward, strategic planning, stakeholder collaboration, and efficient governance will be critical to harnessing opportunities, improving living standards, and ensuring balanced development. The insights from this municipal profile provide a comprehensive foundation to guide policy formulation, investment decisions, and the implementation of sustainable development initiatives across key sectors to transform Sefwi Wiawso into a prosperous and resilient Municipality.