

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: GHA32549
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Questions

- 1. Please provide a map with the Salaga, Gidendugu and Accra and the distances between them.**
- 2. Please provide information on the distribution of the sheep population around Salaga.**
- 3. What tribes are around Salaga?**

RESPONSE

- 1. Please provide a map with the Salaga, Gidendugu and Accra and the distances between them.**

Salaga is some 325kms directly north of Ghana's capital Accra. No information was found in the sources consulted on a town/village named Gidendugu ('Ghana' 2005, United Nations Cartographic Section, February <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/ghana.pdf> – Accessed 5 November 2007 – Attachment 1).

Salaga is the district capital of the East Gonja District located in the Northern Region of Ghana ('Guide to Northern region' 2005, allAfrica.com website, source: Public Agenda, 3 June <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200506060812.html> – Accessed 6 November 2007 – Attachment 2).

- 2. Please provide information on the distribution of the sheep population around Salaga.**

No information was found in the sources consulted on sheep numbers around Salaga. However, one source suggests that sheep might be found around the Salaga area. Other

sources indicate that livestock is an important part of economic activity in the Northern Region.

An April 2003 news article, in the context of writing on new agro-industrial plants, states that:

The three projects are an agricultural waste recycling plant near Sege in the Greater Accra Region, and two **integrated cassava-processing plants at Salaga** and Assin-Kushea, **in the Northern** and Central regions respectively.

...

It is also expected that **each of the Integrated Cassava Processing Plants** when fully operational, would process 35 metric tons of **cassava** daily into agbelima, gari, kokonte, starch and flour for baking. Furthermore, **the cassava peels would be processed into animal feed chips to promote rearing of goats and sheep** ('CSIR to Build ₵2.4bn Agro Industrial Plant' 2003, allAfrica.com website, source: Ghanaian Chronicle, 10 April <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200304110310.html> – Accessed 6 November 2007 – Attachment 3).

An August 2001 profile on Grassland and Pasture Crops in Ghana, prepared for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), states that sheep production is generally widespread throughout the country. The Northern Region is one of the major livestock (including sheep) producing regions in Ghana. It also noted that there were no large-scale commercial sheep farms in the country (Oppong-Anane Kwame 2001, *Ghana*, Grassland and Pasture Crops: Country Pasture/Forage Resource Profiles, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, August <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPC/doc/Counprof/Ghana.htm> – Accessed 6 November 2007 – Attachment 4).

Information accessed on the Ghana High Commission in Canada website stated that:

...Livestock rearing in the [Northern] region forms an important part of the economic activity of the area ('Land & People' (undated), Ghana High Commission in Ottawa, Canada website <http://www.ghc-ca.com/frm-e-land-people.html> – Accessed 5 November 2007 – Attachment 5).

One article describes the Northern Region as the “breadbasket” of the country “feeding Ghanaians with the abundant harvest of cereals, rice, maize, millet, yam and **livestock**” ('Guide to Northern region' 2005, allAfrica.com website, source: Public Agenda, 3 June <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200506060812.html> – Accessed 6 November 2007 – Attachment 2).

3. What tribes are around Salaga?

Little detailed information on the tribes around Salaga was found in the sources consulted. According to the *BBC World Service* a Paramount Chief of Salaga has stated that there are 13 tribes in Salaga. One news article identified three of the ethnic groups in the East Gonja District: the Gonjas, the Kokonmbas and the Nanumbas. The Gonjas and the Nanumbas are said to be two of the four main key ethnic groups in Ghana ('The Atlantic Slave Trade' (undated), *BBC World Service* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/9chapter4.shtml> – Accessed 5 November 2007 – Attachment 6; 'Warring Factions Hail Reconciliation Law' 2002, allAfrica.com website, source: Accra Mail, 16 January

<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200201160595.html> – Accessed 6 November 2007 – Attachment 7; ‘Why is the north blighted by chieftaincy disputes?’ 2006, IRIN email, 1 February – Attachment 8).

Gonjas are the largest of the Guan groups in Ghana. As a linguistic group, Guan is a member of the Volta-Comoe sub-family of Kwa languages. The Gonja language is part of the Guan linguistic community. Attached is a map accessed on the Ethnologue website which shows where the Gonja language is spoken (Awedoba, A. K. 2006, ‘The Peoples of Northern Ghana’, National Commission on Culture (Government of Ghana) website, 22 May http://www.ghanaculture.gov.gh/modules/mod_pdf.php?sectionid=593 – Accessed 6 November 2007 – Attachment 9; ‘Languages of Ghana’ 2004, SIL International, Ethnologue.com website http://www.ethnologue.com/show_map.asp?name=GH&seq=10 – Accessed 7 November 2007 – Attachment 10).

The Gonja are found in the southern parts of the Northern Region and control territory which had been conquered from weaker peoples such as the Vagala, Tampulma, Mo and other Guans. Awedoba states that even today Gonja chiefs rule over villages in which there are non-Gonjas. Salaga is a principal Gonja town (Awedoba, A. K. 2006, ‘The Peoples of Northern Ghana’, National Commission on Culture (Government of Ghana) website, 22 May http://www.ghanaculture.gov.gh/modules/mod_pdf.php?sectionid=593 – Accessed 6 November 2007 – Attachment 9).

For further brief information on the Gonja see: ‘Guang’ 2007, Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, 6 November <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9038300/Guang#2611.hook> – Accessed 6 November 2007 – Attachment 11.

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Google search engine <http://www.google.com.au/>
Google Scholar search engine <http://scholar.google.com.au/>
allAfrica.com website <http://allafrica.com/>
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations <http://www.fao.org/>
Nordic Journal of African Studies <http://www.njas.helsinki.fi/>
World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)
BACIS (DIMA Country Information database)
REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)
ISYS (RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)
RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. ‘Ghana’ 2005, United Nations Cartographic Section, February <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/ghana.pdf> – Accessed 5 November 2007.

2. 'Guide to Northern region' 2005, allAfrica.com website, source: Public Agenda, 3 June <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200506060812.html> – Accessed 6 November 2007.
3. 'CSIR to Build \$2.4bn Agro Industrial Plant' 2003, allAfrica.com website, source: Ghanaian Chronicle, 10 April <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200304110310.html> – Accessed 6 November 2007.
4. Oppong-Anane Kwame 2001, *Ghana*, Grassland and Pasture Crops: Country Pasture/Forage Resource Profiles, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, August <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPC/doc/Counprof/Ghana.htm> – Accessed 6 November 2007.
5. 'Land & People' (undated), Ghana High Commission in Ottawa, Canada website <http://www.ghc-ca.com/frm-e-land-people.html> – Accessed 5 November 2007.
6. 'The Atlantic Slave Trade' (undated), *BBC World Service* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/9chapter4.shtml> – Accessed 5 November 2007.
7. 'Warring Factions Hail Reconciliation Law' 2002, allAfrica.com website, source: Accra Mail, 16 January <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200201160595.html> – Accessed 6 November 2007.
8. 'Why is the north blighted by chieftaincy disputes?' 2006, IRIN email, 1 February. (CISNET Ghana CX145759)
9. Awedoba, A. K. 2006, 'The Peoples of Northern Ghana', National Commission on Culture (Government of Ghana) website, 22 May http://www.ghanaculture.gov.gh/modules/mod_pdf.php?sectionid=593 – Accessed 6 November 2007.
10. 'Languages of Ghana' 2004, SIL International, Ethnologue.com website http://www.ethnologue.com/show_map.asp?name=GH&seq=10 – Accessed 7 November 2007.
11. 'Guang' 2007, Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, 6 November <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9038300/Guang#2611.hook> – Accessed 6 November 2007.