GIS STRATEGIC PLANNING;

A POLICY TOOL FOR SETTING DIRECTIONS AND GOOD PRACTICE IN BORDER MANAGEMENT

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

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INTRODUCTION

GHANA
TRAVEL ORIGIN, TRANSIT & DESTINATION

INTRODUCTION (CONT.)

❖ Migration has steadily received attention globally over the past decades, and this has translated into actions being taken by various Governments to maximize its benefits and minimize its negative impacts.

❖ The incorporation of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an indication of the importance attached to it in development planning and practice at the international level.

❖ Some regional and sub regional blocs, such as the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS),have all placed migration and migration-related issues high on their respective agenda, of which Ghana is not an exception.

INTRODUCTION (CONT.)

PROFILE OF GHANA'S BORDERS

Total land size of 238,533 sq. kilometres

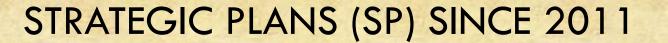Total land border stretch of 2,420 kilometres

Bounded by:

- Togo on the east – 1098 kilometres

- La Cote d'Ivoire on the west- 720 kilometres

- Burkina Faso on the north – 602 kilometres

- The Atlantic Ocean (Gulf of Guinea) on the south–

539 kilometers

BACKGROUND OF STRATEGIC PLANNING IN GIS

Since 2011, the GIS has developed Strategic Plans which serve as a policy tool that guide its operations/activities and communicate the Service's priority to its stakeholders.

STRATEGIC PLANS (SP) SINCE 2011

FIRST SP (2011 – 2015)   5 Components

SECOND SP (2018 – 2022)   6 Components

BACKGROUND OF STRATEGIC PLANNING IN GIS

The GIS has recently launched a new 7-year Strategic Plan (2023–2029) which was developed with support from the "Strengthening Border and Migration Management in Ghana" II (SMMIG II) project, funded by the Government of Denmark and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

BORDER MANAGEMENT POLICIES IN GHANA AND THEIR PURPOSES

In developing the GIS Strategic plan several International, Regional and National Policies, Strategies and Frameworks were consulted, among them were:

1. National Security Strategy, 2020. It identifies national security threats and how Government of Ghana plans to deal with them.

2. National Plan of Action for the elimination of human trafficking in Ghana (2017-2021). It seeks to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

3. National Labour Migration Policy (2020-2024). It seeks to promote good governance in the management of labour migration issues in order to protect the rights of migrant workers and maximise the development impacts.

4. Land Border Security Strategy. The land border security strategy aims to increase operational efficiency and establishes a clear vision to collectively improve Government's effort to protect Ghana's land borders. It seeks to improve the interdiction of illegal crossings at the borders, prevent transnational criminal activities including terrorisms, human trafficking, smuggling of arms and drugs whilst enabling legitimate travels and trade

CHALLENGES OF BORDER MANAGEMENT IN GHANA

1. Porous borders

2. Mobility of cross-border communities

3. Emerging challenges of irregular migration: including Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and other crimes that exploit Ghanaian and international migrants

CHALLENGES CONT.

4. Heightened security threats: including violent extremism and emerging transnational crimes, which threaten to spill over into Ghana due to the country's porous borders and displacement of populations from neighbouring countries

5. Climate change-related impact on mobility: the effects are expected to grow over time, displacing populations and creating security challenges.

6. Health emergencies

HOW THE GIS IS USING SP TO SOLVE BM CHALLENGES

1. Deploy patrol and technology-based surveillance equipment and systems to entry/exit points.

2. Upgrade the infrastructure of entry/exit points and provide them with modern
equipment and technology.

3. Provide continuous post-entry training on migration law, risk profiling, and border surveillance

HOW THE GIS IS USING SP TO SOLVE BM CHALLENGES (CONT.)

4. Increase engagement with border communities to facilitate security, border controls and cross-border trade.

5. Equip first-line offices, set up second-line offices and improve cooperation between first, second and the third-line office (DFEC).

6. Extend the digital capture and storage of entry/exit data – synchronised across GIS Commands.

HOW THE GIS IS USING SP TO SOLVE BM CHALLENGES (CONT.)

7. Enhance information-sharing within GIS and with other national and international border management stakeholders.

8. Expand the simplified border-crossing regime for border community residents.

9. Select unauthorized entry/exit points for gazetting in cooperation with all appropriate authorities

CONCLUSION

Ghana remains a key country of origin, transit and destination for migrants and travelers. A range of historical factors and emerging mobility trends are impacting Ghana which calls for a more strategic planning such as the GIS Strategic Plan - 2023-2029.

The GIS will deliver the seven-year Strategic Plan through two-yearly Action Plans, which will break down the broad strategic objectives into outcomes, outputs, activities and inputs. The GIS annual Work Plans will align with the Strategic Plan and corresponding Action Plans which will take into consideration the above mentioned operational challenges and recommendations.

THANK YOU