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Dua kor gye ahum a obu (If a solitary tree is used as a wind-breaker it falls). This is a widely used Ghanaian maxim that draws attention to the danger of over-exposing an individual to extreme pressure by denying him or her relevant support in any noble venture. The completion of this work is evidence that the important social value of mutual dependence is still widely upheld. Indeed, *Nyimpa hia mboa* (human beings need help)! I have not been a solitary tree facing the storms. Several helpful individuals and institutions have walked alongside me as I did this project. In that sense, what you are reading is the fruit of the combined efforts of all such individuals and institutions. It is only proper that I return thanks to them at this stage.

The almost equal sense of importance with which I received each contribution makes it difficult for me to decide whom to mention first. I deeply appreciate all the support offered me. I thank my team of supervisors, made up of Professor Gerrie ter Haar of the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, and Professor Martien Brinkman of the VU University, Amsterdam, who with extreme show of generosity guided me through the rather rough circumstances in which I found myself while working on this project. It was their determination to see this work completed that inspired me not to give up. They also gave me clear and authoritative direction through their expert guidance and critical comments.

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ACRONYMS

AAA	American Anthropological Association
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
ACP	African-Caribbean-Pacific
AFRC	Armed Forces Revolutionary Council
ARPS	Aborigines Rights Protection Society
ARS	Apostles' Revelation Society
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CCG	Christian Council of Ghana
CDD	Centre for Democratic Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEDEP	Centre for the Development of People
CEOs	Chief Executive Officers
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
COMOG	Coalition of Muslim Organizations-Ghana
CPP	Convention Peoples Party
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CYO	Catholic Youth Organization
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECR	Enlightenment Critique of Religion
EU	European Union
FBAAs	Faith-Based Associations

FGM	Female-Genital Mutilation
FIDA	Federation of International Women Lawyers
GCBC	Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference
GNA	Ghana News Agency
GNCC	Ghana National Commission on Children
ICAMD	International Centre of African Music and Dance
ICCPR	International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural
Rights	
JW	Jehovah's Witnesses
LDS	Later-Day Saints
MOWAC	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NAO	Native Administration Ordinance
NBCWA	National Congress of British West Africa
NCC	National Commission on Culture
NCCE	National Commission on Civic Education
NDC	National Democratic Congress
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NLC	National Liberation Council
NRC	National Reconciliation Commission
NSS	National Secular Society
PNDC	Provisional National Defence Council
POCRIMO	Positive Christian Movement
SFO	Serious Fraud Office
SMC	Supreme Military Council
UDCD	Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural
Organization	
USA	United States of America
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WAJU	Women and Juvenile Unit
WFDD	World Faith Development Dialogue

MAPS

Map 1

Map of Ghana showing the ten regions of the country and Anlo, Gomoa, La and the cities of Accra and Kumasi.



Map 2

Showing the Anlo Traditional Area and the administrative districts of Akatsi, Keta, Ketu and South Tongu.



Map 3

It Shows the Gomoa Traditional Area; its two divisions of Ajumako and Assin and its two administrative districts of the Gomoa West and Gomoa East.



Map 4

Showing the La Traditional Area and its former farmlands which have now become highly populated suburbs of Accra, the national capital. It shows some important facilities such as the Kotoka International Airport, the University of Ghana, Burma camp and the plush residential

area

of

Cantoment.

LA TRADITIONAL AREA



