

**ZODAN, Withney Viviane**

**Country of origin: Benin**

**Master's degree in  
Climate Change, Biodiversity, Policy  
and Practice**

**Université Félix HOUPHOUET-  
BOIGNY**



## Ecosystem Services (ES) Assessment In The Sitatunga Valley Natural Community Park, Benin

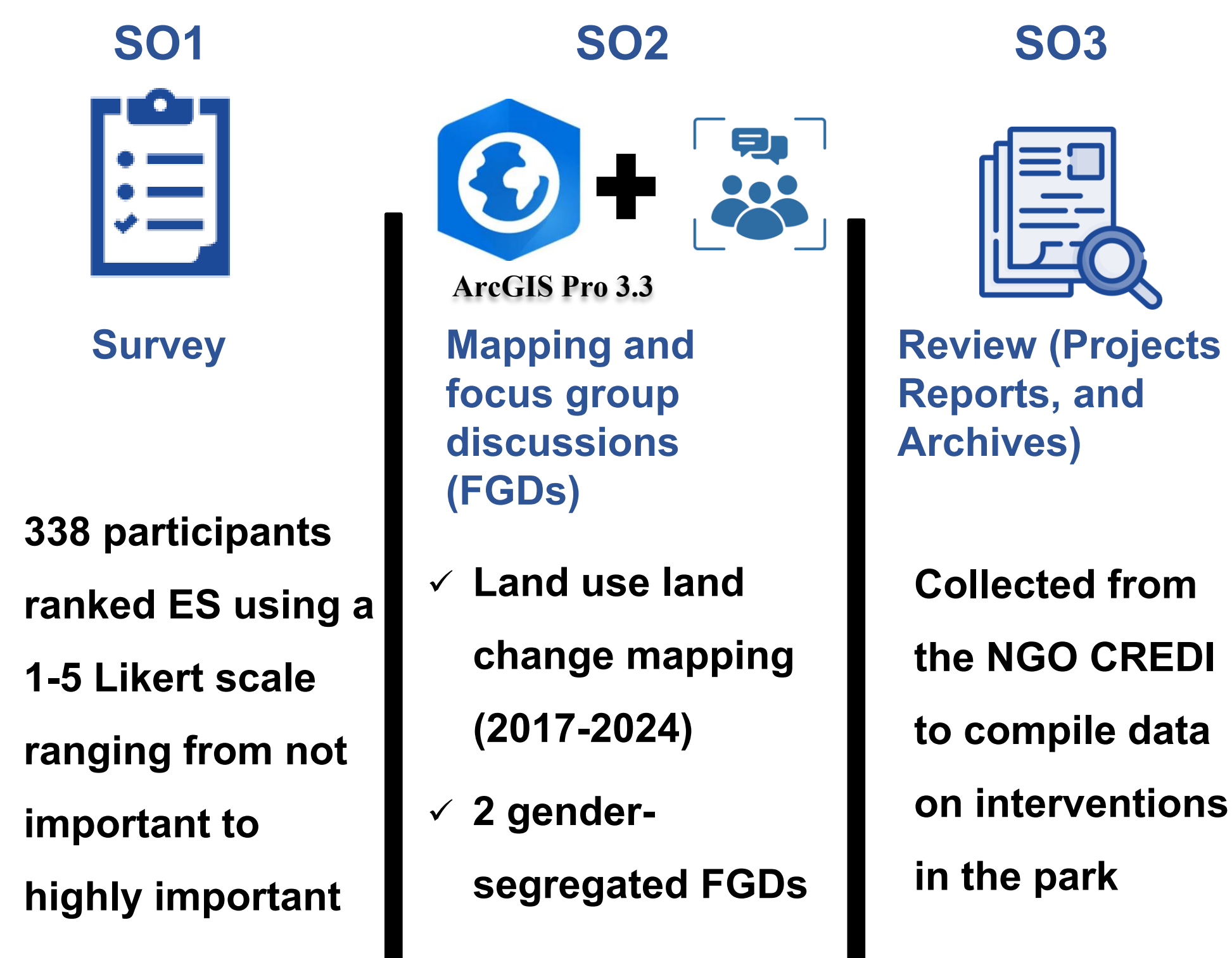
### Introduction and problem statement

- ✓ ES are declining globally.
- ✓ **60%** of ES evaluated by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) are being degraded (Haines-Young & Potschin, 2010).
- ✓ **75%** of classified forests in Benin have been heavily degraded (UICN/BIODEV2030, 2021). The parks represents a unique model of community-based conservation. However, there is limited detailed evidence regarding the ES it offers.

### Objectives

1. To identify ecosystem services prioritized by local communities
2. To describe ecosystem state and drivers of change
3. To examine adaptive responses to sustain and improve ecosystem services.

### Methods



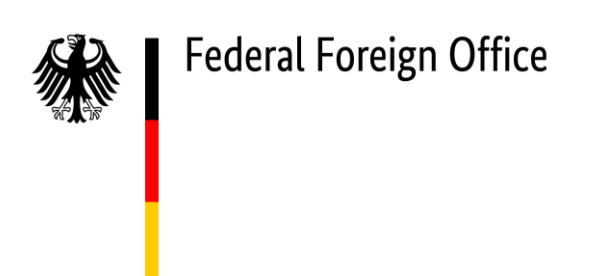
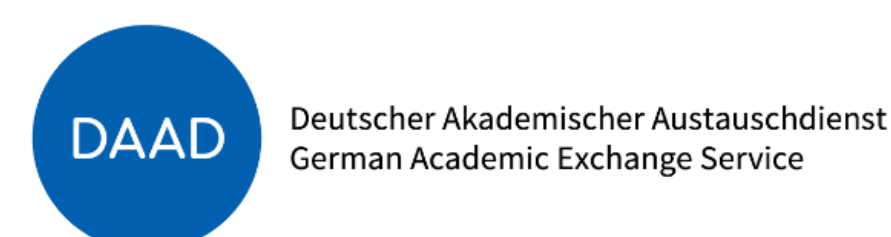
#### References:

- Haines-Young, R., & Potschin, M. (2010). The links between biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human well-being. *Ecosystem Ecology: A New Synthesis*, 1, 110–139.
- UICN/BIODEV2030. (2021). Évaluation et hiérarchisation des menaces portant sur la biodiversité au Bénin. Cotonou, Bénin: UICN/BIODEV2030.

#### Partner institutions:



#### Funded by:



### Results

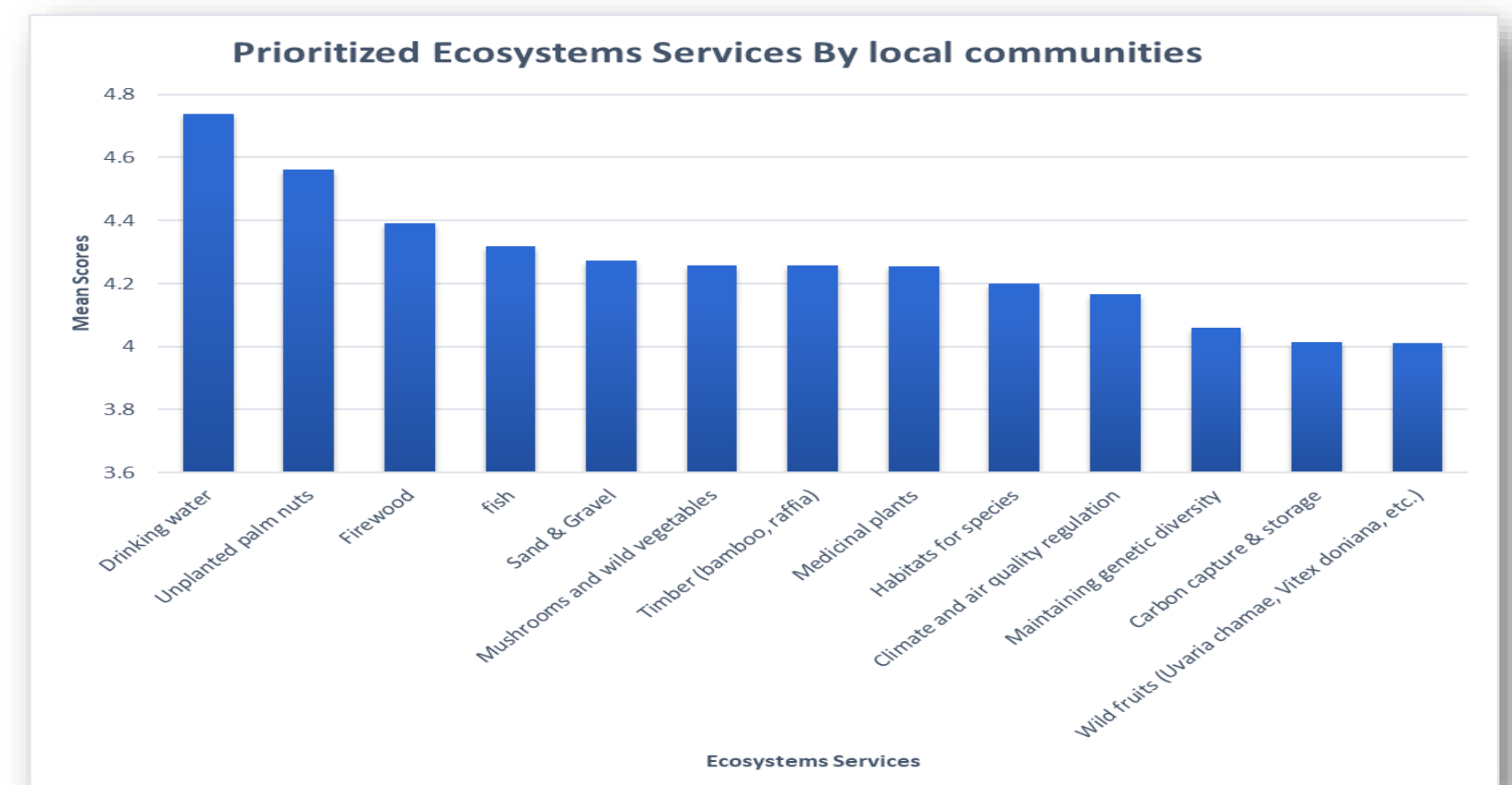


Fig. I: Prioritized Ecosystem Services

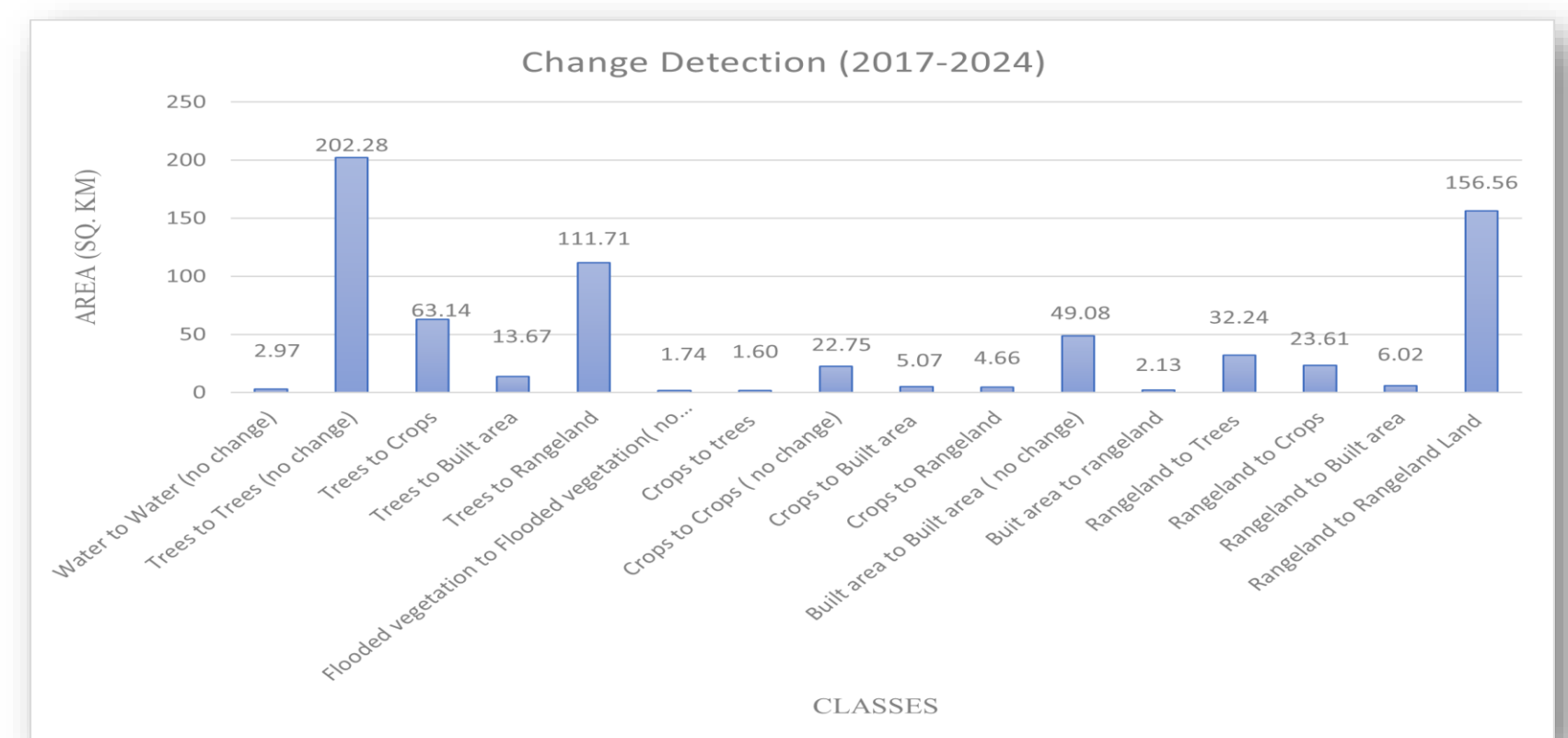


Fig.II: Change detection (2017-2024)

#### Drivers of ES decline

- Pineapple farming
- Population growth
- Urban development
- Bushfires
- Overhunting
- Reduced rainfall

### Conclusion and recommendations

**Habitat restoration** (reforestation/tree planting) and **animal-based microcredit for women** are solutions that have been proven effective to address ES decline in the study area.

**Provisioning services** are the **most valued** by the community.

⇒ Relevant for **CREDI-ONG** to build more inclusive, context-responsive conservation work.

**Tree cover** is being converted to **rangelands, croplands, and built-up areas.**

⇒ Need for rigorous regulations and policies on sustainable land use (**Territorial Agencies of Agricultural Development**).