



**Graphic**

Graphic Communications Group Limited



## Natural Resources Stakeholders Dialogue

*Theme*

***Harnessing our Natural  
Resources Responsibly for our  
Sustainable Collective Good***

Venue: **Kempinski Gold Coast Hotel, Accra**

Date: **May 11 & 12, 2023**

Time: **9a.m. – 4p.m, each day**



*Special Guest  
of Honour*  
H E the President of the  
Republic of Ghana  
**Nana Addo Dankwa  
Akufo-Addo**



**Hon Samuel A. Jinapor, MP,**  
Minister for Lands and  
Natural Resources



**Ato Afful, MD,**  
Graphic Communications  
Group Ltd.

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## ***1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

The National Dialogue on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, organized by the Graphic Communications Group Limited (GCGL) in partnership with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, brought together policymakers, experts, and stakeholders in Ghana's natural resource sector. The two-day dialogue aims to address challenges in the sector and explore sustainable strategies for harnessing the country's natural resources for Ghana's collective good.

Day One of the dialogue commenced with welcome remarks from Mr. Ato Afful, the Managing Director of GCGL, who emphasized the need to protect and nurture Ghana's abundant natural resources. He highlighted the negative impacts of illegal mining on the environment, public health, and the country's economic progress, stressing the importance of concrete implementation plans and a national action plan to address this issue effectively. Mr. Afful called for a holistic approach to natural resource management that balances economic progress, environmental conservation, and social welfare.

Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor, the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, delivered the opening statement, emphasizing the holistic management and utilization of Ghana's natural resources. He highlighted the government's efforts to increase local content and participation in the mining industry, encourage mining companies to list on the Ghana Stock Exchange, and revive dormant mines for increased gold output and economic growth. The Minister also discussed initiatives in the forestry sector, such as the Green Ghana Project and the Cocoa and Forest Initiative, aimed at afforestation, emission reduction, and protecting forest resources. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between the government and stakeholders to achieve sustainable natural resource management and value addition.

President Nana Akufo-Addo delivered a keynote address, emphasizing the urgent need to address the challenges associated with Ghana's natural resource exploitation. He highlighted the importance of sustainable practices, responsible mining, value addition, and local participation. The President acknowledged the historical challenges and shortcomings in negotiations with companies, leading to suboptimal benefits from natural resources. He called for rectifying past mistakes, combating illicit financial flows, and ensuring optimal benefits for the people of Ghana. President Akufo-Addo emphasized the significance of traceability in the gold sector,

understanding supply chains, and addressing issues of money hoarding and illegal practices. He also stressed the role of education and human capital development in responsible mining.

The panel discussions focused on mining, land, and forestry sub-sectors. In the mining panel, discussions revolved around financial losses due to encroachments, weaknesses in land governance, regularization, revenue generation, challenges with customary land management, and responsible mining practices. The panelists emphasized the importance of clear laws and policies, collaboration with government institutions and stakeholders, traceability of gold, and education and human capital development in the mining industry.

In the land panel, the discussions centered on encroachment on state lands, weaknesses in land administration, good land governance, and the role of the Land Commission in enforcing ownership rights. The panelists highlighted the need for transparent and efficient land administration, affordable surveying services, and digitization of land records.

The forestry panel addressed the protection of forest resources from illegal mining, logging, and agricultural expansion. The discussions highlighted initiatives such as the Green Ghana Project, the Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy, and the Cocoa and Forest Initiative. The panelists emphasized the importance of afforestation, reforestation, emission reduction, and tracing wood from the forest to its final disposal.

Day two focused on discussions at planery levels to discuss key issues for sustainability of our resources and getting suggestions for policy.

Overall, the two-day Dialogue provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss critical issues in Ghana's natural resource sector. The discussions highlighted the importance of collaboration, responsible practices, value addition, and sustainable management. The dialogue set the stage for further engagements and the exploration of strategies to promote the sustainable management of Ghana's natural resources.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

Policymakers, experts and other stakeholders in the natural resource sector converged at the Kempinski Hotel in Accra for the start of a two-day national dialogue aimed at promoting the sustainable management of the country's natural resources. The dialogue aims to address challenges in the sector and explore sustainable strategies for harnessing natural resources for Ghana's collective good. The dialogue was organised by the Graphic Communications Group Ltd (GCGL) in partnership with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and its agencies

The agenda for the Day 1 of the Natural Resources Stakeholder Dialogue was in two parts. The first part was the opening which saw addresses by the MD of Graphic Communications Group Limited, the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor and the President of the republic, H.E Nana Addo Danquah Akufo-Addo. The second part was three separate panel discussions in the Mining, Land and forestry sub sectors. The discussions in the panel highlighted the importance of supporting value addition in Ghana's natural resources sector and emphasized the need for stakeholders to come together and explore ways to harness the country's natural resources for sustainable development. The panelists and the participants also stressed the significance of moving beyond raw material export and focusing on value addition to maximize the benefits derived from these resources. Challenges in the sector, including illegal mining and the lack of value addition were also addressed while seeking solutions to ensure sustainable exploitation, utilization, and management of natural resources. Overall, the conversations set the stage for fruitful Dialogues even after the program, where stakeholders can discuss these critical issues and explore strategies to promote value addition and sustainable management of Ghana's natural resources.

### **MODERATOR**

Winston Amoah, a Senior Journalist with Multimedia Ghana Limited moderated two-day dialogue.

## ***3.0 DAY 1***

### **3.1 WELCOME REMARKS BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS GROUP LIMITED (GCGL), MR. ATO AFFUL**

The Managing Director of the Graphic Communications Group Ltd, Ato Afful, delivered the welcome remarks at the Natural Resource Stakeholders Dialogue on the theme "Harnessing our Natural Resources for our Sustainable Collective Good." His welcome remarks emphasized the need to protect and nurture Ghana's abundant natural resources for the benefit of both the present and future generations.

Mr. Afful acknowledged that Ghana is endowed with an array of natural resources, including arable lands, forests, water bodies, and minerals such as gold, diamonds, and bauxite. These resources have played a crucial role in the country's economic development and revenue generation. However, the excessive and unregulated extraction of natural resources, particularly through illegal mining ("Galamsey"), has led to severe environmental damage, deforestation, water pollution, and habitat destruction.

He highlighted the negative impact of illegal mining on the environment, public health, and the country's economic progress and international reputation. Mr. Afful stressed the need for concrete implementation plans and a national action plan involving multiple stakeholders to address this issue effectively. He observed that a lot has been done to address the menace but more has to be done. He therefore, called for a holistic approach to natural resource management that balances economic progress, environmental conservation, and social welfare.

The MD for GCGL outlined primary considerations for sustainable natural resource management, including responsible and sustainable mining practices, the collaboration between the government, civil society, and commercial interests, and the promotion of sustainable growth while protecting the environment. Mr. Afful emphasized the importance of embracing sustainable practices in resource use and management to ensure the well-being of future generations.

In conclusion, Afful expressed confidence in the collective commitment and expertise of the stakeholders present at the dialogue. He called for action, learning from past experiences, and working together to create a sustainable future for all Ghanaians.

Overall, he highlighted the urgency and importance of addressing the challenges related to natural resource management in Ghana, particularly illegal mining, and emphasized the need for collaboration and sustainable practices to protect the environment and ensure a prosperous future.

### **3.2 OPENING STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, HON. SAMUEL A. JINAPOR, MP**

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor, delivered the opening address at the Dialogue. The Minister expressed gratitude to President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo for his extraordinary leadership in the management and utilization of natural resources and for graciously accepting the invitation to open the all-important stakeholder dialogue.

Under the theme, "Harnessing Our Natural Resources Responsibly for Sustainable Collective Good," aimed to foster a common path for the holistic management and utilization of Ghana's natural resources. The Minister emphasized that natural resources encompass more than just lands, forests, wildlife, and minerals. They also include water, fossil fuels, fisheries, and renewable energy resources, all of which are intrinsically connected.

The Minister highlighted the historical context of natural resource management in Ghana. He referred to the failed Land Bills of 1894 and 1897, which were inspired by attempts by the colonial government to take over the mineral and forest resources of the nation. This eventually led to the compromise of the Concessions Ordinance of 1900, which placed restrictions on the rights of chiefs to grant concessions for the exploitation of minerals and other natural resources. He emphasized the need to learn from history and ensure that the management of natural resources in the present and future is sustainable and beneficial for the country.

Hon. Jinapor emphasized that the management of natural resources goes beyond protection and exploitation; it also includes sustainability, environmental protection, mitigating the climate crisis, and ensuring optimal benefits for resource owners. He outlined several measures taken by the government to achieve these goals. In the mining industry, the government has increased local content and participation by expanding the Local Procurement List of goods and services reserved



for Ghanaians. This ensures that billions of dollars are retained within the country annually. Efforts are also being made to encourage mining companies to list on the Ghana Stock Exchange (GSE), and the revival of dormant mines has contributed to increased gold output and economic growth. In this regard, he disclosed that Ashanti Gold has been listed on the GSE. The Hon Minister further indicated that a Technical Committee is finalizing a document on exploitation and utilization of natural resources for consideration by cabinet.

The Lands Minister highlighted upcoming mining operations, including Newmont Ahafo North, Azumah Resources, and Cardinal Namdini, which will further boost the country's gold production. He mentioned the ongoing work on a policy document for the exploitation, management, and utilization of green minerals, such as lithium, with the aim of retaining their value chain within Ghana.

In the forestry sector, the government has implemented various programs and strategies, including the Green Ghana Project, the Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy, and the Cocoa and Forest Initiative. These initiatives, he noted focus on afforestation, reforestation, emission reduction, and tracking of wood from the forest to its final disposal through the Ghana Wood Tracking System and Decision Support System (GWTS-DSS). The government is also taking steps to protect forest resources from illegal mining, logging, and agricultural expansion.

The Minister acknowledged that challenges remain in achieving the objectives of sustainable natural resource management. Therefore, the stakeholder dialogue serves as an important platform for collaboration and forging a common path. He emphasized that while it is the responsibility of the government to regulate and manage the utilization of resources, the role of other stakeholders is equally important. The dialogue aims to facilitate the management of natural resources in a sustainable manner while adding value to the resources, contributing to the national economy, and protecting the environment.

The Minister concluded by reiterating the government's commitment to working with all stakeholders to construct a sustainable and value-added natural resources sector. He expressed gratitude for the participants' attendance and attention and emphasized that the Ministry of Lands

### **3.3 KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT, H.E. NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO**

In his keynote address at the Natural Resources Stakeholder Dialogue, President Nana Akufo-Addo emphasized the urgent need to address the challenges surrounding the exploitation and management of Ghana's natural resources. He highlighted the importance of sustainable practices and the potential for harnessing these resources for the country's collective good.

President Akufo-Addo began by expressing gratitude to the Graphic Communications Group Limited and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for organizing the dialogue. He acknowledged the persistent issue of illegal small-scale mining and emphasized the necessity of finding lasting solutions to protect the environment and ensure the sustainable development of the sector. He stated, "Today, I open this dialogue not to discuss just illegal small-scale mining but the broader consequential issue of how we exploit, utilize, and manage the natural resources of our nation."

The President highlighted the indispensable role of natural resources in our daily lives and the dependence of millions of citizens on these resources. He quoted Gifford Pinchot, an American Forester, saying, "Without natural resources life itself is impossible." He emphasized that the challenge lies not in whether to exploit these resources but in how to do so sustainably for national development.

President Akufo-Addo acknowledged that Africa is blessed with abundant natural resources, yet the continent remains the poorest in the world. He expressed concern over the lack of optimal benefits derived from these resources, attributing it to historical challenges and shortcomings in negotiations with companies. He cited Obuasi, Prestea and Tarkwa as mining communities which are abundant in mineral resources but have not seen the needed development. He stressed the need to rectify past mistakes, stating, "We have not always done well in negotiations with the companies that exploit our natural resources. We have mostly been short-sighted in these negotiations and end up settling for less."

The President addressed the issue of illicit financial flows associated with the natural resources sector, highlighting the negative impact on sustainable development. He called for collective efforts to combat illegalities in the extractive sector, including illegal mining and logging, which

have caused destruction to forests, water bodies, and arable lands. He emphasized the importance of responsible mining practices and the need for mining contracts to address environmental protection and compensate affected communities.

President Akufo-Addo stressed the significance of value addition and local participation in the natural resources sector. He cited examples such as the global aluminum industry, where processed bauxite accounts for most of the market value, and the importance of establishing an integrated iron and steel industry to support Ghana's automotive sector. He highlighted the government's commitment to invoking provisions of the law to ensure that bauxite and iron ore are not exported in their raw state, retaining the highest value of these minerals within the country.

The President also mentioned the importance of green minerals, particularly lithium, for the green energy transition. He emphasized the need for environmentally-sound practices in the exploitation and utilization of these minerals and assured that optimal benefits for the people of Ghana would be prioritized.

He concluded his address by acknowledging the collective responsibility in the protection and preservation of natural resources. He called for a renewed commitment to sustainable management, while protecting the natural environment for current and future generations.

In summary, President Akufo-Addo's address emphasized the need to address the challenges of natural resource exploitation in Ghana. He called for sustainable practices, responsible mining, value addition, and local participation. The President stressed the importance of protecting the environment and ensuring optimal benefits for the people of Ghana.

## **4.0 PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

### **4.1 MINING**

#### **MODERATOR'S INTRODUCTION AND THE PANELISTS**

The section was moderated by Ing. Dr. Kenneth Ashigbey with the following panellists drawn from the regulatory agencies, academia, and industry.

- i. Mr. Martin Ayisi, CEO - Minerals Commission
- ii. Prof. Richrd Amankwah, Vice Chancellor – University of Mines and Technology(UMaT)
- iii. Mr. Gideon Armah, Secretary – Ghana National Association of Small Scale Miners
- iv. Dr. Sulemana Koney, CEO - Ghana Chamber of Mines

The moderator in his opening remarks said the theme of the dialogue indicates that we have not been harnessing our natural resources responsibly and, therefore, the focus of the discussions should be on:

- i. actions to be taken to ensure we are able to deal with devastations associated with mining;  
and
- ii. finding solutions to the challenges.

He then invited Panellists to share their perspectives on the theme: “Harnessing Our Natural Resources Responsibly for Our Sustainable Collective Good”. This was followed by questions relating to specific thematic areas.

#### **4.1.1 Panellist Perspectives on the Theme and Responses to Questions on**

##### **Thematic Areas**

##### **Perspectives On the Theme**

The Panellists agreed generally that mining is good as it helps in the advancement of society but because minerals are by their nature finite, mining should be done sustainably. They define sustainability to include the following:

- i. channelling mining investment and returns into areas that will sustain other industries or productive ventures;

- ii. conducting mining in efficient way;
- iii. upholding responsibly mining practices;
- iv. mining in a way to ensure it catalyse sustainable development; and
- v. leveraging on the mining industry to develop other sectors.

## **Responses to Questions On Thematic Areas**

### **Thematic Area One -Policies and Regulations to ensure we get maximum benefits beside royalties and taxes**

The following policies are being pursued or need to be pursued:

#### **i. Policies and Regulations in Place**

- Mining companies are being required to list on the Ghana Stock Exchange to raise capital
  - Parliament has passed a law in this direction;
- Pursuit of Local content
  - The local procurement list has been increased to cover 50 items
- Pursuit of value addition
  - The formation of the Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation (GIADEC) and the Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation by an act of Parliament and similar policy direction relating to other minerals like lithium are being implemented.

#### **ii. Policies and Regulations Needed to be Pursued or Enhanced**

- Ensure that all mining capital inputs are raised locally to engender local content and retention of value;
- Pensions Fund Management institutions should invest in mining projects as a means of providing local capital;
- Ensure minerals serve as critical inputs for local industries;
- Up-scaling of mining value addition;
- Skills development and knowledge transfer;
- Enhancement of local content along the entire value chain of mining;

## **A. Thematic Area Two - Interventions to Reverse the Way Artisanal**

### **Small Scale Mining (ASM) Is Being Done**

- i. There must be rigorous enforcement of laws by the security agencies;
- ii. Lack of mineable areas is at the root of the haphazard mining activities. There is, therefore, the need to demarcate mineable areas for the ASM sector through Geological Investigations;
- iii. Regularisation of ASM operators;
- iv. We should be patriotic;
- v. Training of ASM operators in sustainable mining practices;
- vi. Proper engineering of small scale mines;
- vii. Continuous education and sensitization through community radio programmes on responsible mining practices;
- viii. Enhanced Enforcement of relevant laws and regulations;
- ix. Resourcing of the ASM sector with critical skills and available capital.

## **B. Thematic Area Three – Traceability of Gold and Prevention Smuggling**

Lack of effective traceability of gold from the ASM subsector from production to export resulting in revenue losses to the state has been of great concern to government. And even though recent reforms within the legal regime i.e. the reduction of the withholding tax from 3% to 1.5 % as well as the up scaling of the enforcement regime has resulted in reversing the trend to some extent, there is the need for a strategy that captures all actors and track all activities within the gold value chain in order to address the issues holistically.

The Panellist shared the following perspectives on the way forward:

- i. The economy needs to be structured properly to ensure effective data collection and generation of accurate information on production, consumption and export;
- ii. There is the need for proper understanding of the gold supply chain to know where the minerals are coming from;
- iii. There is the need to address the porous nature of the country's borders.

## **C. Thematic Area Four: The Need for Collaboration Among Stakeholders**

The panellist underscored the need for effective collaboration among all stakeholders as a necessary requirement in achieving sustainability in the country's mineral resource space. This according to them is necessitated by the fact that the issues about mineral resources exploitation cut across different sectors and, therefore, require different expertise to deal with. They, therefore, called for effective collaboration among Government, Regulatory Agencies, Industry Players, Security Agencies, the Judiciary, the Academia, Local and Traditional Authorities and Civil Society Organizations.

### **4.1.2 PANELISTS' PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Mission and Objectives of Small-Scale Miners Association**

The Ghana National Association of Small-Scale Miners aims for responsible and sustainable mining.

Objectives include reducing the use of harmful chemicals, empowering women, and building capacity among small-scale miners.

Focus on being fair to future generations and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.

#### **Long Term Chamber of Mines' Perspective on Responsible Mining**

Reference to the African mining vision and using resources transparently, optimally, and equitably for economic development.

Mining should go beyond extraction and taxation to promote broad-based socio-economic development.

Emphasis on leveraging the mining industry to support other sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and fabrication.

## Collaboration with Government Institutions and Stakeholders

Need for collaboration between mining associations, government ministries (e.g., Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Education), and other institutions.

Focus on developmental issues and long-term planning in partnership with stakeholders.

Examples of collaborations to develop infrastructure (e.g., airports, hotels) and retain economic benefits within the country.

## Traceability of Gold and Preventing Wealth Loss

Concerns about gold leaving the economy without traceability and benefiting local communities.

Need for data collection and accurate information on gold production, consumption, and exports.

Proposal for a national traceability policy to track gold from mining to the market.

Importance of understanding supply chains and addressing issues of money hoarding and illegal practices.

## Education and Human Capital Development in the Mining Industry

Acknowledgment of the crucial role of education in responsible mining.

Focus on the current state of human capital in the mining industry.

Need to address challenges and improve education and training programs to enhance sustainability and responsible practices.

### 4.1.3 Q&A SESSION

Name	Question/Issue	Response
Oppon Sasu former, Executive Director – FSD	Types of mining, trenching, bulk sampling  How Coordinates are obtained from MC	The issue of coordinates resulting in Entry into the Atewa F/R is addressed.



	Efforts to stop illegal small scale miners	<p>Site inspection is done on site to pick coordinates</p> <p>Licence operators do not allow children under 18 years do not undertake small scale mining</p>
Edwin Yaw Addo Tawiah, Former Executive Director – Lands Commission	Suggested to have a monitoring and evaluation department at the Minerals Commission or to use satellite data to code/buffer the river bodies. Every panel member is defending their terrain so who is polluting the water bodies	Minerals Commission has an M & E department which is currently running
A traditional ruler	Take the dialogue to the right place	Any participant who is facilitating the illegality is part of the problem – Moderator’s perspective

#### 4.1.4 SUMMARY

The discussions also focus on the topic of mining sustainably and responsibly. The focus of the mines discussion was to explore ways of ensuring responsible mining practices and environmental conservation in the harnessing of mineral resources for sustainable development.

The speaker, representing the small-scale mining association, emphasizes the importance of training all individuals involved in mining, including small-scale miners, to understand the principles of responsible mining and environmental conservation. They aim to create a pool of people who can mine while keeping the environment clean.

The representative of the Small-Scale Miners Association discusses their mission to promote effective, efficient, responsible, and sustainable mining. They focus on reducing the use of harmful chemicals in mining operations, empowering women, and building the capacity of small-scale miners to be more responsible in their approach.

The CEO of the Chamber of Mines underscored the need for transparent and equitable exploitation of mineral resources. He stated that they believe that mining should contribute to the overall development of the country and not just be about extracting minerals and paying taxes. They advocate for a broader approach that leverages the mining industry to support other sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing.

The panelists discuss the importance of planning for the long-term development of mining areas and maximizing the benefits for local communities. They mention examples of how mining can lead to the development of infrastructure, tourism, and other industries.

The issue of traceability and the prevention of gold leaving the country without proper documentation was also addressed. The panelists highlighted the need for a national traceability policy to track gold from the mine to the market. They emphasize the importance of understanding the supply chain and ensuring transparency in financial transactions related to mining.

Education is identified as a crucial element in promoting responsible mining practices. The panelists acknowledged the need for continuous training and education to improve the human capital in the mining sector. They highlighted the importance of investing in education and collaboration with training institutions to develop skilled professionals who can contribute to sustainable mining practices.

Overall, the panel discussion emphasizes the need for responsible mining practices that consider environmental conservation, community development, and long-term sustainability. The participants recognized the importance of collaboration between government, industry players, the academia, and other stakeholders to achieve these goals.

## **4.2 PANEL DISCUSSION: LAND**

### **MODERATOR'S INTRODUCTION AND THE PANELISTS**

**Moderator:**

**Dr. Wordsworth Odame Larbi**

**Panelists:**

Mr James Ebenezer Kobina Dadson - Executive Secretary of the Lands Commission

Mr. Edwin Addo-Tawiah - Former Director, Survey and Mapping Division of the Lands Commission,

Mr. Mark Kakraba-Ampeh - Representative of the Ghana Institution of Surveyors

Madam Nana Ama Yirah - Executive Director of the Community Land Development Foundation (COLANDEF)

The dialogue focused on three main issues:

- 1. Encroachment on State Lands**
- 2. Land Administration and Management – emerging trends**
- 3. Mapping and Land Use Planning**

### **PANELISTS' PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

- 1. The structures and institutional mechanisms that are established to execute the recommendations from the National Land Conference held in December, 2022.**

The management of Ghana's land resources has not always been optimal, leading to conflicts, insecurity, and a lack of accountability in the sector. Several steps have been taken to fully understand these challenges and find solutions to them, notable amongst which is the Land Administration Project Phases 1 and 2, and the recent National Land Conference, 2022. Emanating from the Conference was an eleven-point comprehensive communique with recommendations that seek to provide holistic solutions to land related issues in Ghana; and the establishment of a Land Sector Multi-Stakeholder Platform (LSMSP) was one of such recommendations. This Platform seeks to

bring together all key stakeholders in the land and natural resource sector, both state and non-state actors, to use participatory and inclusive processes to ensure coordination in the planning, management, and use of land and natural resources.

Through this initiative, we expect to achieve several outcomes including but not limited to achieving well-informed and capacitated citizenry that can actively participate in land governance and management and to improve land tenure systems, ensuring that citizens have secure and predictable access to land.

A four-member committee was set up to oversee the formation of the Multistakeholder platform. A steering committee, as well as technical working groups, made up of identified relevant institutions, are yet to be established. The committee has been successful in doing the following:

- Presenting the Communique to the Honorable Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, which he approved for implementation.
- Designing the framework of the multistakeholder platform and setting up its secretariat at the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.
- Engaging LI drafting consultants for the Lands Act.
- Identifying and proposing the establishment of technical working groups for the implementation of the Communique of the Land Conference.
- Engaging possible donors for the operations of the Platform.

So, a lot has been done since the Land Conference, but these have been in the background. After the inauguration of the steering committee, a lot more work will be done to ensure that the conference communique is fully implemented."

## **2. The magnitude of encroachment on state lands and the remedial measures implemented by the Lands Commission to mitigate this issue**

- District assemblies are failing to protect state lands within their jurisdictions and allowing unauthorized development.
- Lack of enforcement by relevant state agencies is a major cause of encroachment.
- The Lands Commission faces difficulties involving the police and military in preventing encroachment on state lands.

- The Lands Commission lacks policing power and sufficient police personnel to protect the lands effectively.
- Armed land guards pose a threat to Lands Commission staff attempting to prevent encroachments.
- The government's inability to pay compensation to rightful owners contributes to the persistence of encroachments.
- Difficulty in identifying the rightful owners presents a unique challenge in compensating lands acquired by the state.

### **3. Financial Losses Due to Encroachments on State Lands**

- The state incurs significant costs due to encroachments, particularly on lands where compensation has already been paid. The intended development benefits are lost, and additional expenses are incurred to protect or remove encroachers.
- Unlike other state institutions, such as GWCL and VRA, the Lands Commission cannot cut off supply or directly punish encroachers due to the nature of land as an immovable property. Prevention of encroachment is crucial.
- Regularization of some encroached lands could help the state recover some money from encroachers.
- The lack of permits and identification of structures on encroached lands results in the state losing revenue that could have been generated through property taxation.

### **4. Ways to effectively address the numerous challenges within the land sector and ensure proper land governance.**

- The challenges in the land sector can be addressed through the establishment of good land governance, which includes transparency, accountability, efficiency, effectiveness, and responsiveness.
- The land sector currently lacks good governance due to the absence of these elements.
- Transparency should be ensured by making all land acquisition and transaction processes clear and simplified.
- The Lands Commission should take proactive measures to improve its effectiveness and efficiency, addressing encroachment promptly instead of waiting for regularization requests.

- Planning authorities should be responsive and anticipate changes, developing programs and policies that meet the evolving needs of the population.
- Holding individuals accountable for illegal actions would generate funds to support projects like the Land Administration Project (LAP) and address issues like illegal mining.
- The implementation of existing laws in Ghana is a problem, even though the country has well-designed laws in place.

## **5. Facilitating survey and mapping of lands effectively.**

- The Lands Commission has the responsibility of providing base maps to assist people in surveying and mapping their lands.
- Surveys and maps have various advantages, including aiding in land use planning and utilization by professionals like engineers.
- Mapping can be costly but is still essential. However, the accessibility of data poses a challenge as it is not currently available free of charge.
- Efforts should be made to streamline the provision of base maps by the Lands Commission, ensuring that ordinary people can effectively survey and map their lands.
- It is important to explore potential avenues to make relevant data more accessible to the public, facilitating the surveying and mapping process.

## **6. The issue of Ghana's rapid development encroaching upon agricultural lands.**

- Land transactions involve more than just physical space; they include interests and economic potential associated with the land.
- Customary leaders, who hold the majority of the land, often lack the necessary capacities to effectively handle land transactions.
- The Lands Commission has established comprehensive guidelines for acquiring large land parcels, and raising awareness among traditional leaders about these guidelines is crucial to ensure proper procedures and actions.
- Allocation of farmers' lands to investors in some areas of the country has led to concerns about malnutrition among households. Limited agricultural land availability hinders local food production and agricultural diversity, leading to mono-cropping practices.

- The conversion of farmlands to residential purposes poses a threat to food security. Effective land use planning is essential to address this issue, ensuring that areas designated for agriculture are not used for other purposes.
- Implementing land use policies and plans effectively can mitigate the threat to food security caused by urban growth.

#### 4.2.2. Q&A SESSION

Name/Designation	Question/Issue	Response
Veep, Ass. of Surveyors	Drum home the need for more surveyors to help prepare maps	-
Dr. Edward Dwomfour	What is the state of the implementation of the one stop shop policy	Certain conditions should be met before one can register titles within 3 months. Pilot has given the results

#### 4.2.3 SUMMARY

The discussions about the challenges and issues faced in land administration and governance in Ghana. Several topics are touched upon, including the role of the Lands Commission, the need for regularization of land titles, the importance of good land governance, and the implementation of land laws.

The discussion begins with the clarification that permits for land development are granted by the assemblies rather than the Lands Commission, which is responsible for granting land titles. It is emphasized that open spaces should remain as such, and any development should be in accordance with the planning scheme for the area.

The conversation then shifts to the issue of regularization of land titles. It is highlighted that some individuals have formed associations and followed the process of conforming to planning schemes to regularize their titles at the Lands Commission. However, penalties and fees are charged for

regularization, and there is a challenge in dealing with individuals who occupy land without coming forward for regularization.

The representative from the Ghana Institution of Surveyors then shares his perspective on land administration. He emphasizes that the problem lies not in land administration itself but in the governance structure. While customary land ownership is recognized, the state should establish clear rules and regulations to guide land processes and ensure compliance. Good land governance requires transparency, effectiveness, efficiency, responsiveness, and accountability.

The discussion then addresses the issue of implementing land laws. It is acknowledged that Ghana has well-crafted laws, including the recent Land Act and Spatial Planning Act. However, the focus is on the need for effective implementation rather than the laws themselves. The absence of supporting legal instruments, such as Land Instruments (LIs), is mentioned as a hindrance to the full realization of the laws' objectives.

Another significant challenge highlighted is the lack of comprehensive surveying and mapping in Ghana. The absence of accurate base maps hampers land administration processes and the preparation of land use plans. The importance of surveying and mapping is emphasized as the foundation for land activities and resolving land disputes. Efforts are being made to digitize mapping data and improve data collection using GPS and LIDAR technologies.

The discussions conclude by emphasizing the benefits of surveying and mapping, such as land use planning, mineral concessions, local governance, and street address systems. Various interventions and initiatives have been undertaken to address mapping deficiencies, including the digitization of hardcopy maps and collaborations with international organizations.

Overall, the members of the panel highlight the need for improved land administration and governance in Ghana. It calls for effective implementation of existing laws, better surveying and mapping practices, and the establishment of transparent, efficient, and accountable systems. These measures are seen as crucial for resolving land-related challenges and ensuring sustainable development in the country.

The discussions were also related to the activities and challenges of the Lands Commission and the importance of land use planning in Ghana. The Lands Commission explains that they have engaged



with various stakeholders to discuss land reforms and the Commission's role. Compliance with land rules and regulations is identified as a major challenge, and there is a call for stronger enforcement and sanctions for those who violate the laws. Lands commission the need for efficiency and enforcement of existing rules and regulations to manage the limited land resources in the face of increasing population and competing land uses.

The topic of digitalization is also discussed, with a panelist mentioning ongoing collaborations with the private sector to transform the land sector. The aim is to automate land records, map the entire country, and provide online access to services, reducing the need for intermediaries. The final meeting between the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Finance is expected to take place on May 19th to finalize the arrangements for digitalization.

The issue of land use planning is raised, highlighting the challenges faced in this area, such as the lack of spatial plans and limited resources for planning offices. The need to focus on land use and spatial planning is emphasized, as it plays a crucial role in organizing human activities and development. The use of technology, such as drones, is proposed to capture images at a lower cost and assist in the preparation of spatial plans. The presence of modern laws governing spatial planning is acknowledged, but more resources and capacity building for planning offices at the district level are needed.

The discussions concluded with a contribution from a member of the Land Survey Association of Ghana, which emphasizes the importance of surveying and the creation of accurate maps for land ownership. He clarifies that surveying is not as expensive as perceived and highlights the need for surveys and plans to ensure proper land ownership and avoid confusion.

Overall, the discussions by the panelists revolve around the challenges and initiatives in land administration, digitalization of land records, and the significance of land use planning in Ghana. The importance of compliance with land laws, enforcement mechanisms, and the role of technology in improving land administration processes are highlighted throughout the conversation.

## **4.3 PANEL DISCUSSION: FORESTRY**

### **MODERATOR'S INTRODUCTION AND THE PANELISTS**

Moderated by Professor Dan Frimpong-Ofori. The panelists for the session drawn from regulatory, research and Civil society included:

1. Hugh Brown - Executive Director, Forest Services Division - Forestry Commission
2. Prof. Daniel A. Ofori - Director. CSIR-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana.
3. Mr. Daniel Kofi Adu - Representative from Civil Society
4. Gustave Adu, Forestry Industry Association of Ghana

### **4.3.1 PANELISTS' PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **1. State of Ghana's forest**

8.2 million hectares of forest at the turn of the century. This is an estimate of the southern one third of the country. In 1994, 1.6 million hectares was reported which is also an estimated area of reserve forest of the southern sector. In 2012, according to the forest preservation project, 9.1 million hectares was reported as the total area of forest in the country. Landsat could not differentiate between forest and cocoa so the figure was disputed. In 2021, 6.6 million hectares was reported, 1.2 million hectares is a closed canopy forest

#### **2. Private sector's role**

The private sector emphasizes the importance of not just taking resources but also giving back to communities. They mention working towards revenue generation for the country while also benefiting the communities through infrastructure development and social services.

#### **3. Civil society's role**

The civil society represents the voice of the voiceless and focuses on inclusive governance and community empowerment. They advocate for balanced resource usage, social responsibility agreements, and community progress.

#### **4. Government and civil society collaboration**

There is a discussion about the government's role and the perception that civil society sometimes criticizes the government. However, it is clarified that civil society aims to create a balanced society and work together with the government for optimal resource usage and sustainable development.

#### **5. Causes of deforestation and forest degradation**

Various drivers of deforestation and degradation were discussed, including agriculture expansion, illegal logging, mining, wildfires, overgrazing, and infrastructure development. These factors contribute to the loss of forest cover in Ghana.

#### **6. Efforts to address the problems**

The conversation touches on the actions taken to mitigate the issues affecting the health of forests. These efforts involve climate modeling, assisted migration of tree species, wild life management and phytoremediation to counter the effects of toxic substances in the environment.

#### **4.3.2 Q&A SESSION**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
Darel Dossu	A drive to mine and achieve protection of our forest climate resilience  Where is the point of convergence. Regulators having challenges with enforcement	Forestry Commission is not a para military but making frantic effort is made to protect the resource with the life of staff on the line
Nature and Development Foundation	What is the future of forest in Ghana	There should be clear policies to guide the management of the resources

		The future of our forest is in our hands. Clear policies and enforcement of legislations
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### 4.3.3 SUMMARY

The panel discussion involved representatives from different sectors, including regulators, industry, civil society, and academia, focusing on the responsible management of natural resources, particularly forests, in Ghana. The panelists emphasized the importance of sustainable development and the need to balance economic growth with environmental conservation and social responsibility.

The industry representative highlights the role of private sector companies in contributing to society by generating revenue, supporting communities, and providing essential services such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education. They emphasize the importance of working in conformity with regulations and closely cooperating with regulatory bodies and research institutions.

The civil society representative emphasizes their role as a voice for the communities and advocates for inclusive governance and optimal utilization of resources. They strive for a balanced approach that considers both the government's perspective and the well-being of the communities directly impacted by resource exploitation. They highlight their efforts in research, capacity building, and advocacy to promote sustainable development and ensure communities receive fair treatment and benefits.

The causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Ghana are discussed, including agricultural expansion, illegal logging, mining, wildfires, overgrazing, and infrastructure development. These drivers are attributed to factors such as population growth, economic development, and energy needs. The participants recognize the challenges posed by these drivers and the need for intervention to mitigate their impact on forests.

The panel conversations also feature a discussion on the challenges and potential solutions related to forest management and conservation in Ghana. The speakers emphasize the importance of research findings and collaboration between government, communities, and civil society to achieve progress

and address issues in the forestry sector.

The speakers express their concern about the negative impacts of deforestation and pollution on communities, emphasizing the need for inclusive resource governance and transitioning to a green economy. They highlight the potential for job creation, ecotourism, and domestication of natural resources to drive sustainable development in the country.

Various initiatives and projects are mentioned, such as independent forest monitoring, reforestation efforts, and partnerships with communities to improve livelihoods and promote sustainable practices. The Forestry Commission emphasizes its work with communities and the introduction of tracking and decision support systems to combat illegal logging. They also mention the promotion of lesser-used species as an alternative to overexploited ones.

The issue of mining in forest reserves is raised, questioning the potential trade-offs and environmental consequences. The need for a clear policy regarding mining and its impact on water bodies, agricultural sectors, biodiversity, and climate resilience is emphasized. The speakers call for a convergence of efforts to balance mining activities with sustainability goals.

Questions from the audience raise concerns about law enforcement and the lack of prosecution for smuggling goods. The panelists discuss the challenges faced by regulators and emphasize the importance of enforcing existing laws to deter illegal activities.

In terms of addressing the challenges, the discussion touches upon initiatives focused on climate modeling, assisted migration of tree species, and phytoremediation to enhance the fitness and survival of trees in changing environments. The goal is to achieve a sustainable balance between resource utilization, economic growth, and environmental conservation.

In conclusion, the future of Ghana's forests is seen as a critical concern. The speakers highlight the need for collaborative efforts, policy clarity, and sustainable practices to protect the environment, improve livelihoods, and achieve long-term economic and environmental sustainability.

## **5.0 DAY 2**

### **5.1 ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES RESPONSIBLE FOR MINING, HON. GEORGE MIREKU DUKER**

The Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. George Mireku Duker, MP, delivered opening remarks on the second day of the Stakeholders' Natural Resource Dialogue. The dialogue was initiated by the President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, and the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor. The President stressed the importance of sustainable natural resource governance and collaboration among stakeholders. Various organizations, including the Graphic Communications Group, have responded positively to the call for collective responsibility in addressing irregularities in the sector.

The Deputy Minister highlighted the President's expectations for the dialogue, which include addressing issues such as environmental degradation, illicit financial outflows, smuggling, corruption, illegal mining, and logging. He also mentioned the need for a National Traceability Plan, tangible projects funded by mining revenues, and increased awareness of sustainable small-scale mining practices.

The Minister of Lands and Natural Resources emphasized the significance of stakeholder collaboration in promoting sustainable natural resource management. The Deputy Minister mentioned the listing of mining companies on the Ghana Stock Exchange, which will contribute to the industry's growth and development.

The Managing Director of the Daily Graphic explained the objective of the dialogue, which aims to achieve consensus on harnessing natural resources for sustainable collective good. He emphasized the finite nature of resources and the importance of their responsible and sustainable exploitation. Proactive measures were discussed to ensure commitment towards sustainable development.

Panellists agreed that while natural resource exploitation is beneficial for societal advancement, it must be conducted responsibly and sustainably. They defined sustainability as directing resource investment and returns towards other industries, efficient exploitation, responsible mining practices, community engagement, catalyzing sustainable development, and leveraging the mining industry to develop other sectors.

The President's speech he noted highlighted that although Africa possesses approximately 30% of the world's natural resources, its development in this regard is comparatively low. Therefore, there is a need to translate Africa's share of natural resources into sustainable development. Participants were encouraged to generate ideas during the plenary session to unlock the full potential of Ghana's natural resources.

In conclusion, the Deputy Minister expressed gratitude and extended blessings to all participants in the dialogue.

## ***6.0 BREAKOUT SESSIONS***

### **6.1 BREAKOUT SESSION: MINING**

The focus of the plenary discussions was to find the way forward in dealing with unsustainable practices within Ghana's mining sector. Participants shared diverse perspectives on various thematic areas from governance, policy, regulatory, operation, security, environment to academic points of view and proposed the following as the way forward:

#### **i. Enhancement of Governance, Policy Framework and Legal Regime**

- There is the need to first and foremost identify the drivers of illegal mining in order to be able to proffer the appropriate governance, policy and legal solutions or reforms
- There must be progressive review of policy, laws and regulations relating to the ASM sector in response to the changing dynamics of the sector
- There should be a re-definition of small scale mining into medium scale mining in the light of the mechanization of the sector
- Developing long term strategies and perspectives in the management of mineral resources is necessary for ensuring sustainable exploitation
- There must a policy that ensures that outputs from the mining sector feed into other critical sectors of the economy for value creation and retention

- Mining should not be done in silos. It should link up with other sectors of the economy.
- There should be policy that define where mining should be carried out and where mining should not be done
- The youth are developing undue sense of ownership of mineral resources that need to be managed
- There must be a conscious effort to address the seeming greed factor among the youth
- There should be transparency in the utilization of mining revenues and easy traceability of projects undertaken with proceeds from mining
- There is also the need to broaden the discussion to include other sectors like the Quarry industry or the development minerals. This is necessary to ensure diversification of the mining industry for job creation and employment

## **ii. Retooling of the ASM Sector**

- There must be adequate resourcing of the ASM sector with requisite skills, capital and technology to ensure responsible mining practices.
- Lack of mineable areas is at the root of the haphazard mining activities. There is, therefore, the need to demarcate mineable areas for the ASM sector through Geological Investigations

## **iii. Enforcement**

- There must be rigorous enforcement of laws and regulations as enshrined in the mining laws and the constitution



- Institutional Capacity building to enforce relevant laws is key for achieving compliance and sustainability
- There is the need for institutional and stakeholder collaboration in the enforcement regime among regulators, industry, the security agencies, the judiciary, traditional and local authorities

#### **iv. Dealing with Traceability and Smuggling Issues**

- All ASM operators should be required by law to form cooperatives to help in easy traceability of gold
- There is the need for clear statistics on production and export in order to determine the exact leakages within value chain
- There is the need for a national traceability policy to track gold from mining to export.

### **DISCUSSIONS/ISSUES**

#### **1. Lack of mineable areas and demarcation for Small Scale Mining (SSM)**

Haphazard mining activities occur due to the absence of clearly defined mineable areas.

Rigorous enforcement of mining laws and regulations

The effective implementation and enforcement of existing mining laws and regulations are essential to curb illegal mining.

#### **2. Institutional Capacity building for law enforcement**

Enhancing the capacity of relevant institutions to enforce mining laws is crucial in addressing illegal mining.

#### **3. Institutional collaboration in enforcement**

Collaboration among regulators, security agencies, and the judiciary is necessary for effective enforcement of mining regulations.

#### **4. Redefinition of Small-Scale Mining (SSM) to medium-scale mining:**

With the mechanization of the sector, redefining Small Scale Mining (SSM) as medium-scale mining might be appropriate.

#### **5. Inclusion of other sectors like Quarry industry development minerals:**

Expanding the scope of discussions to include sectors beyond traditional mining, such as quarry industry development minerals.

#### **6. Long-term perspectives in mineral resource management:**

Developing sustainable strategies and long-term perspectives is essential for effective management of mineral resources.

#### **7. Integration of mining with other sectors of the economy:**

Mining activities should be interconnected with other sectors to maximize their economic impact and foster development.

#### **8. Progressive review of policy, laws, and regulations:**

Regularly updating and adapting policies, laws, and regulations pertaining to Small Scale Mining (SSM) to address evolving sector dynamics.

#### **9. Clear policy on mining locations**

Establishing policies that define where mining activities are allowed and where they should be prohibited.

#### **10. Monitoring production and export figures**

Monitoring and comparing production figures with export figures to identify discrepancies and combat smuggling.

## **6.2 BREAKOUT SESSION: FORESTRY**

### **DISCUSSIONS/ISSUES**

#### **6.2.1 OVERARCHING VISION**

##### **Promote Sustainability of the Forest.**

Efforts are being made to improve eco-tourism sites. A directorate has been created to improve eco-tourism and enhance the sustainability of the forest. The directorate will also ensure that there is a collaboration with individual eco-tourist and government agencies.

##### **Wealth accounting and balancing of 4Cs.**

It was mentioned by one of the senior participants that there should be wealth accounting of what can be and what is gotten from the forest through balancing of the 4Cs i.e., Conservation, Community, Commercial and Carbon to ensure the sustainability of the forest. In conserving the forest, there should prohibition of any kind of activities in the forest. The balance of the 4Cs would ensure the gotten from the forest is properly accounted for so that it can immensely contribute to the growth of the country's GDP of the country.

##### **Value addition to the forest**

A participant mentioned and agreed that the essentials and products in the forests can be used to add value to the forest without depleting the forest. For instance, the sting of bees, slime of snails, scorpions' and snakes' venom can be used to produce medicines and cosmetics. If importance is placed on the value-chain of the forest it could produce jobs for the youth and generate revenue for the country.

##### **Sustainability and development of ecosystem**

A Senior Member from the Forestry Commission stated the forest in the country could generate revenues and create tons of jobs if the ecosystem is developed. The value chain of the forest must identify in the forest and improved upon. He said that some African countries such as Rwanda,

Nigeria have redesigned their ecosystem to improve forestry in their respective countries.

A senior participant mentioned that better land use conflict management should be introduced in forestry management. The NDPC should be engaged to plan a long-term framework on sustaining and restoring the forest. Land conflict management should be taught to the Chiefs in the communities to know how to properly use and manage the lands in their jurisdiction.

It was suggested by the group to have better approaches to land use. The authorities with lands must develop appropriate ways of using lands without destroying it.

### **Sustainability of the asset**

Mr. Dominique from IUNC said communities should be on-boarded in discussion towards the sustainability of the forest. He said the reason the fight against forest depletion is gaining no ground is because the communities are side-lined in the discussion and sustainability of the forest.

A wildlife activist mentioned a scenario where the communities protected some species in the forest in the locality. This was because the community was engaged in the importance of sustaining the forest and the lives in the forest.

### **Education and awareness**

Prof Godwin said two-way education and awareness should be created on the destruction of the forest as well the benefits of sustainability. The people must be educated on nature's positive output and not lose sight of the foods and resources gotten from nature. They should be educated on the importance of trees to human live. A Member of an NGO reiterated the intensification of education on how to restore the environment.

A member of an NGO mentioned that the people should be made aware of how the forest takes a long time to be restored to an optimal level or state due to the chemicals used in destroying the environment. Reverend Lawson Adjei, emphasized the need to educate the people on the number of years it takes to rebuild and restore the forest.

### **Behavioural change**

A member of Eco-care stated the need for educating the communities to change their behaviours

towards the environment. The communities must be impacted with the desire and sense of protecting the environment. She also mentioned developing appropriate communication strategy models for National Campaign on human behaviours.

Reverend Lawson said the conscience of the citizens should be activated to be patriotic to the benefit of the forest in the country.

### **Policy, legislation and regulatory framework**

Prof Godwin mentioned that all the assets of the forest should be accounted for and develop a NTFP value chain of the forest.

A senior participant suggested that Legislative Instrument (LI) 2462 Sec. 3(2) should be amended to prevent any kind of mining or logging in the forest reserves. The LI should not allow any mining activities in the forest reserves no matter what the net benefit it contributes to the country.

A Senior Member of the Ghana Forestry Commission said some policies used for sustaining the forest have expired therefore, there should be new policies that would be suitable for the changing themes and times of nature.

The members of the group emphasized the need to ensure that all policies on forestry must be enforced at all costs and make sure there is political will all the process of the frameworks.

### **Climate change**

Climate change cuts across all activities that are associated with the environment. Therefore, any activity can cause the destruction of the forest and improve the conservation of the forest.

### **Research**

It was mentioned that there should be a provision of empirical data to show the actual cost of the loss and gains of the forest.

There should be on-going support for forest research and development. This would go a long way to identify the pros and cons of forest management. Research will be able to state the number of lands that are valid and invalid in the country.

## **6.3 BREAKOUT SESSION: LANDS**

### **6.3.1 ENCROACHMENT ON STATE LANDS**

#### **6.3.2 CAUSES/ISSUES**

1. The primary causes of encroachment must be identified to determine appropriate solutions: To create effective measures to address land encroachment, the fundamental causes must be determined. This may be caused by elements including poverty, a lack of official land titles, corruption, poor governance and enforcement systems, and ambiguous land tenure regimes. Any efforts to stop or deal with encroachment may be unsuccessful without locating the underlying causes.
2. The issues of unpaid compensation: Many instances of land encroachment occur when people are not properly compensated for land that has been acquired by the Government or private entities. Due to this, individuals may inhabit and use property they perceive to be theirs even when another person has lawfully acquired it.
3. Encroachers should be invited to a meeting for regularization which can generate revenue for the state: Entire Government estates have occasionally been encroached onto, rendering destruction difficult or impossible. Regularization or other creative solutions are required in these situations to stop future incursions and generate income for the state.
4. Institutions whose name's land was acquired must demonstrate pragmatic steps to protect their land, or the remaining land can be returned to the rightful landowners: Some organizations are unable to defend their property from encroachment, making it open to unauthorized takeover. In such circumstances, it is crucial that institutions take action to strengthen their ability to safeguard their land, particularly by investing in training and creating the necessary rules and procedures. The remaining land that will not be utilized be given back to the state for proper management. It is important to note that the land commission does not have the mechanism to protect state lands, so the onus lies on the institutions to take responsibility to guard their properties.

5. The government needs to assess whether it truly needs land and how much land it requires before acquiring it: One of the main causes of land encroachment is the acquisition of land by the government or private entities for projects that are later abandoned or found to be unnecessary. This results in unused land being vulnerable to encroachers. Before acquiring land, it is important that the government conducts a thorough assessment of its needs and how much land it requires, to avoid acquiring more land than necessary and prevent future encroachment.
6. Inadequate data to understand the extent of encroachment on Government land: the lands commission over the years has had issues with statistical data that will enable them to identify and address encroachment on Government properties.

## **SOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Information on the degree of encroachment on public lands should be gathered by the government. This will help in identifying areas of priority for action and enable amnesty to be given to those without titles to regularize their situation on a case-by-case basis.
2. Compensation must be paid to the rightful owners of land to prevent encroachment caused by non-payment. This will involve ensuring that records of landowners are available to enable compensation payments.
3. To deal with encroachment outside of metropolitan areas, a comprehensive strategy is required. This will entail determining the underlying causes of encroachment, such as the absence of viable alternatives for those who trespass on public property and coming up with acceptable solutions.
4. The acquiring authority should assess the size of the land required and avoid profligate acquisitions. This will help to prevent unnecessary land acquisitions that can lead to encroachment.
5. State lands need to be thoroughly inventoried or taken in stock. This will make it easier to monitor and protect state lands from encroachment.
6. The acquiring authority should take responsibility to guard their lands. This will ensure that land is used for the intended purpose and prevent encroachment.

7. The court, security agencies, and local authorities must enforce the laws and punish those found culpable of encroachment. This will serve as a deterrent to others who may want to encroach on state lands.

8. Where compensations have not been duly paid, Government should negotiate with the parties involved to share the proceeds of regularization. This will involve negotiating with pre-acquisition owners who may have legitimate claims to the land.

### **6.3.4 LAND ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **General Information:**

1. Education and awareness: The issue of land administration and governance can be addressed through education. People must be aware that it is a process, and there are costs involved with respect to land registration. This will help to minimize issues of land encroachment and disputes.

2. Embrace digitalization: The adoption of digital technology in land administration can reduce human contact and eliminate delays. This will hasten land registration and minimize errors associated with manual processes.

3. Back-office challenge: The back office of the Lands Commission (LC) poses the biggest challenge to land administration. Legacy data must be digitalized to improve the records system, which must be clean and regularly updated.

4. Dual system challenge: The dual system of land administration (customary and statutory) must be merged to enhance consistency and interoperability. The establishment of customary land secretariats (CLS) is one way to achieve this goal.

5. Harmonize LC records: The harmonization of LC records is necessary to create one records repository. This will ensure faster land registration, which can be completed within a matter of days.

6. Partnerships needed: Partnerships beyond the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL) and LC are needed to set up and strengthen CLSs. The involvement of other stakeholders can enhance the success of this endeavor.



## **SOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Provide clear requirements: Applicants should be provided with clear requirements, and applications should be admitted only if all boxes have been ticked. A checklist is available at the CSAU.
2. Digitalize legacy data: The LC must digitalize legacy data to improve the records system and ensure that it is clean and regularly updated.
3. Empower customary land secretariats: The establishment of CLSs must be strengthened, and secretariats must be empowered to enhance their effectiveness.
4. Absorb CLS data into LC database: The CLS and LC databases must be integrated to enhance consistency and interoperability. This will ensure that what is done at the CLS can be easily absorbed into the LC database.
5. Address stool land documentation: Stool lands given to state agencies, which are not documented, must be documented to enable registration with a plan. The LC can play a role in this process.
6. Establish land information system: A land information system must be established to address issues of moving from one division to the other. The consolidated search can help with this process.
7. Establish a centralized inspectorate unit: A centralized inspectorate unit is necessary after the country has been fully mapped and surveyed. This unit should have the authority to enforce the laws and regulations related to land administration and governance.
8. Invest in cyber security to mitigate the downsides of the technological shortfalls of the digitalization drive of Government and the Lands Commission.
9. Invest in the human capacity of the workers in land administration, and institute and enforce sanctions for defaulters.

### **6.3.5 LAND USE PLANNING AND SURVEYING**

#### **General Information:**

1. Surveying in Ghana is expensive, which is impeding the progress of land use planning efforts.
2. The existing data for land use planning and surveying was collected in 1974 and needs to be updated, leading to higher surveying costs.
3. The institutional requirement of LISAG to pay a percentage is a major cost of surveying and needs to be regulated.
4. The relationship between the Lands Commission (LC) and the Land Use Planning Authority (LUSPA) needs to be formalized.
5. The LUSPA needs to be able to provide oversight over local assemblies, but it is currently unable to do so.
6. Many assemblies lack a Spatial Development Framework due to a lack of funds.

#### **Solutions/Recommendations**

1. The sanctioning regime for quack surveyors should be implemented, and the OTP approach should be used to enforce it.
2. The LC should map the entire country and provide comprehensive data to the LUSPA to use for planning efforts.
3. There should be effective collaboration between LC and LUSPA.
4. Surveyors must be made to apply the required scale of fees by GHIS or SMD, and LISAG must be regulated.
5. Different scales of fees for rural and urban areas should be set to encourage surveying in rural areas.
6. The government should approve the recruitment of spatial planners into district assemblies.

7. Political leaders and other administrative heads at the local level should allow technocrats with the technical know-how to do their work and avoid any interference that could impede the quality of work.

8. Structures should be established to restrict surveyors to licensed infrastructures, and only licensed surveyors should be able to submit plans to the Lands Commission.

## ***7.0 CLOSING SESSION***

### **7.1 CLOSING REMARKS BY THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION, HON. KOJO OPPONG NKRUMAH MP**

The Minister for Information, Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, delivered closing remarks at the Natural Resources Stakeholder Dialogue.

He commended the Graphic Communication Group Limited (GCGL) and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for their dedicated planning and execution of the event. The Minister highlighted the importance of natural resources in Ghana's economic, social, and environmental growth, but also acknowledged the negative impact of their exploitation, including environmental destruction and loss of lives.

He emphasized President Akufo-Addo's commitment to preserving and protecting natural resources while ensuring their effective exploitation for optimal benefits. The Minister mentioned initiatives like the Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation (GIADEC) and the Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation (GIISDEC) to retain the full value chain of minerals through value addition. He also stressed the significance of efficiently exploiting newly discovered critical minerals, such as lithium, for sustainable development.

The Minister emphasized the need to protect lands and forests, which are closely linked to mineral resources. Stakeholder dialogues like this play a crucial role in raising awareness and promoting effective management of natural resources.

Hon. Oppong Nkrumah encouraged participants to be agents of change, implementing the discussed policies and resolutions within their spheres of influence. He thanked all involved for their contributions and urged everyone to act based on the outcomes of the dialogue.

## **8.0 KEY TAKEAWAYS AND SUMMARY**

### **Key Takeaways:**

Mining: Enforcement of mining laws, capacity building for law enforcement, and redefining Small-Scale Mining is important for sustainable mining practices.

Forestry: Promoting sustainability, eco-tourism, value addition, education, policy enforcement, and research are vital for forest conservation.

Lands: Identifying causes of encroachment, compensation for rightful owners, responsible land acquisition, law enforcement, inventorying state lands, and improving land administration and surveying are necessary to address land-related issues.

### **Summary:**

#### **Mining**

Lack of clearly defined mineable areas for small-scale mining (SSM) leads to haphazard mining activities.

Recommendations include enforcing mining laws, building institutional capacity for law enforcement, and redefining SSM as medium-scale mining.

Emphasize long-term perspectives in mineral resource management, integration of mining with other sectors, and regular review of policies and regulations.

#### **Forestry**

Focus on promoting sustainability of the forest and enhancing eco-tourism.

Recommendations include wealth accounting of forest resources, value addition to the forest without depletion, and developing the ecosystem for revenue generation and job creation.

Highlight the importance of education and awareness, behavioral change, policy and regulatory frameworks, and research for sustainable forest management.

## **Lands**

Encroachment on state lands is a major issue caused by poverty, lack of compensation, corruption, and inadequate land tenure regimes.

Solutions include gathering information on encroachment, paying compensation to rightful owners, assessing land acquisition needs, enforcing laws, and inventorying state lands.

Land administration and management can be improved through education, digitalization, harmonization of records, and partnerships.

Land use planning and surveying require updated data, regulation of surveying costs, formalized relationships between agencies, and the provision of funds for Spatial Development Frameworks.

### ***9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION***

The discussions, dialogues and panel sessions gave rise to some recommendations in the areas of Mining, Lands and Forestry as follows:

#### **MINING**

Rigorous enforcement of mining laws and regulations: It is recommended to effectively implement and enforce existing mining laws to curb illegal mining activities.

Institutional capacity building for law enforcement: Enhancing the capacity of relevant institutions to enforce mining laws is crucial in addressing illegal mining.

Institutional collaboration in enforcement: Collaboration among regulators, security agencies, and the judiciary is necessary for effective enforcement of mining regulations.

Redefinition of Small-Scale Mining (SSM) to medium-scale mining: With the mechanization of the sector, consider redefining Small-Scale Mining (SSM) as medium-scale mining.

Inclusion of other sectors like Quarry industry development minerals: Expand the scope of discussions to include sectors beyond traditional mining, such as quarry industry development minerals.

Long-term perspectives in mineral resource management: Develop sustainable strategies and long-term perspectives for effective management of mineral resources.

Progressive review of policy, laws, and regulations: Regularly update and adapt policies, laws, and regulations pertaining to Small-Scale Mining (SSM) to address evolving sector dynamics.

Clear policy on mining locations: Establish policies that define where mining activities are allowed and where they should be prohibited.

Monitoring production and export figures: Monitor and compare production figures with export figures to identify discrepancies and combat smuggling.

## **FORESTRY**

Promote sustainability of the forest: Focus on improving eco-tourism sites and creating collaboration between eco-tourists, government agencies, and a newly created directorate for eco-tourism.

Value addition to the forest: Explore ways to add value to the forest without depleting it, such as utilizing forest resources for producing medicines and cosmetics.

Sustainability and development of the ecosystem: Develop the forest ecosystem to generate revenue and create job opportunities, with a focus on better land use conflict management and long-term planning.

Education and awareness: Educate people about the importance of conserving the forest, its positive outputs, and the time required for forest restoration.

Behavioral change: Encourage communities to change their behaviors towards the environment and develop appropriate communication strategies for a national campaign on human behaviors.

Policy, legislation, and regulatory framework: Account for all forest assets, review and update forest-related policies, ensure enforcement of laws, and establish pragmatic steps for protecting forest lands.

Climate change: Consider climate change in all activities related to the environment and forest conservation efforts.

Research: Support ongoing forest research and development, including the provision of empirical data and studies to restore depleted forests.

## **LANDS**

Identify primary causes of encroachment: Determine the underlying causes of land encroachment, such as poverty, lack of official land titles, corruption, and ambiguous land tenure regimes.

Compensate rightful landowners: Ensure proper compensation for land acquired by the government or private entities to prevent encroachment caused by non-payment.

Regularize encroachment and generate revenue: Regularize encroachment through meetings and negotiation, generating revenue for the state.

Strengthen institutional protection of land: Institutions whose land has been acquired must take pragmatic steps to protect their remaining land, and the land commission should not have the mechanism to protect state lands.

Assess land requirements before acquisition: Conduct thorough assessments of land needs by the government to prevent unnecessary land acquisitions that can lead to encroachment

## 10.0 APPENDIX A: PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Graphic Stakeholders Dialogue on Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
Day One		
(May 11, 2023, 9:00 A.M. – 5:10 P.M.)		
TIME	ACTIVITY	LEAD
<b>PART ONE</b>		
9:00am - 9:30am	Arrival of Guests	All Guests
10:00am - 10:05am	Arrival of President of the Republic	State Protocol
10:05am - 10:10am	National Anthem	Ghana Police Band
10:10am - 10:15am	Opening Prayer	Rt Rev. Bishop Emmanuel Borlabi Bortey, Bishop of Accra Diocese, Methodist Church, Ghana
10:15am - 10:20am	Welcome Remarks	Ato Afful, MD, Graphic Communications Group Ltd.
10:20am - 10:25am	Opening Statement	Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor, MP, Minister for Lands & Natural Resources
10:25am - 10:30am	Introduction of Keynote Speaker	MC
10:30am - 10:40am	Keynote Address	H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic
30 minutes	Photo Session/ Snack break	
<b>PART TWO</b>		
11:10am - 12:40pm	1st Panel Discussion Mining (1hr:30mins)	Moderator – Ing. Dr. Kenneth Ashigbey
	Introduction of Panelists	Panelists
	Presentation & Discussion	MC
	Open Forum (Q&A)	
<b>1 hour</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>	
1:40pm - 3:10pm	2nd Panel Discussion Land (1hr:30mins)	Moderator – Dr. Wordworth Odame Larbi
		Panelists
3:10pm - 4:40pm	3rd Panel Discussion Forestry (1hr:30)	Moderator – Prof. Dan Frimpong-Ofori
		Panelists
4:40pm - 5:00pm	Open forum	MC
5:00pm - 5:10pm	Closing Remarks	Ato Afful, MD Graphic
Departure		



## Graphic Stakeholders Dialogue on Sustainable Natural Resource Management

### Day Two

(May 12, 2023, 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.)

TIME	ACTIVITY	LEAD
9:00am - 9:20am	Arrival of Guests	All Guests
9:20am - 9:25am	Opening Prayer	Rt Rev. Bishop Emmanuel Borlabi Bortey, Bishop of Accra Diocese, Methodist Church, Ghana
9:25am - 9:30am	Opening Remarks	Hon. George Mireku Duker, MP Dep. Minister, Lands & Natural Resources
9:30am - 9:45am	Short Video/ Breakout Sessions	
<b>Working Snack</b>		
9:45am - 12:30pm	Workshop/ Breakout Sessions 3 Groups	
	Introduction of Groups	MC, Winston Amoah
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining</li> <li>• Forestry</li> <li>• Land</li> </ul>	
1hour 30mins	<b>Lunch break</b>	
2:00pm - 2:30pm	Policy Direction/ Closing Remarks	Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, MP, Minister for Information
2:35pm - 3:00pm	Pledge/Vote of Thanks	Theophilus Yartey, Editor, Graphic
Departure		

## ***10.1 APPENDIX B: PRESENTATIONS AND ADDRESSES***

### **SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, ATO AFFUL, GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS GROUP LTD AT THE NATURAL RESOURCE STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE**

His Excellency, the President, of the Republic of Ghana,

Honourable Ministers of Lands & Natural Resources,

Our Honourable Ministers of State,

Our distinguished Chiefs,

Colleague CEOs,

Panelists,

Captains in the industry,

Friends from the media,

Ladies and gentlemen, and our audience member networks across our digital and broadcast partner channels

I warmly welcome you to today's deliberations on the theme; "Harnessing our Natural Resources for our Sustainable Collective Good". Graphic continues to use its national platform to foreground national issues, one of which has brought us together today for this stakeholders dialogue. Your Excellency, we are hosting a two-day stakeholders dialogue, during which panelists and participants will share practical perspectives on our conversation point, frankly and honestly in the discussions. Our objective is to achieve broad consensus on how to progress from where we are on "Harnessing our Natural Resources for our Sustainable Collective Good". This centre of planet earth, is endowed with an abundance of natural resources; including arable lands, forests, water bodies, minerals etc. However, these resources are in the main finite and require proactive measures to nurture and protect them for our collective good today, and importantly, the next generation; living and unborn, as our forbears graciously did for us. Our natural resources, and the associated extractive industries, have been critical in our national revenue base, and instrumental to our national progress and development over the years. Ghana is noted for its abundant natural resources, which include gold, diamonds,

bauxite, manganese, lithium ore, and until recently, abundant hardwood timber. The mining sector has played an important part in the country's economic development, supplying jobs to our people and revenue to government to support other initiatives.

However, the excessive, unrestrained, unbridled and unrepentant extraction and use of natural resources has resulted in irreparable damage, in some instances, to our environment and other disasters. Illegal mining, in particular, has had a negative impact on the environment, with associated impact on deforestation, excessive water pollution, and the destruction of natural habitats, fauna and flora. Illegal mining, a function of poor land usage, costs the government money and eventually harms the country's economic progress and international brand reputation. The impact of illegal mining, or “Galamsey”, as has become known in our local parlance, on our environment and public health, is enormous and cannot be overlooked for much longer. Much has been said. A lot has been done, and achieved. We need to filter and distill the thoughts put forth into concrete implementation plans through a multi-stakeholder and national action plan that we can measure and evaluate over a defined period. This is a collective responsibility. Under the mandate of government, and the rule of law. Your Excellency, as a progressive nation and well-meaning people, we can not, will not and shall not ignore the evolving menace of unregulated and uncoordinated illegal mining, and indiscriminate land acquisition and use. Primary Considerations:

1. Secure a more sustainable future, we must approach natural resource management more holistically. This will entail balancing economic progress, environmental conservation, and social welfare with our revenues, and growth/developmental aspirations. We must collaborate to develop novel solutions that support sustainable production and consumption trends.
2. Ensure that mining and other land use activities, are carried out in a responsible and sustainable manner that considers the preservation of the environment as well as the well-being of our people.
3. Promote sustainable growth and protect the environment; we the people, must collaborate with government, civic society, and all commercial interests in our extraction and use of natural resources.
4. Sustainability is the key to effective use of our natural resources. To ensure that we satisfy current demands without jeopardising the interests and wellness of future generations, we must embrace sustainable practices in resource use and management.

That we can create a healthier environment by intelligently leveraging our natural resources for our long-term collective good is not an option; it is an imperative. It has to be done. I am confident we have the wherewithal to take that commitment into measurable action steps. Let us commit to taking action, learning from what has been done over time, and make a difference for our environment, our communities, and our future. By working together, we can create a sustainable future for all Ghanaians; living and unborn. Your Excellency, Honourable Minister, ladies and gentlemen, I am confident that the experts gathered here, principal partners and active stakeholders, will guide us in a meaningful way to our collective good. Once again, I welcome you. Thank you

**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, HON. SAMUEL A. JINAPOR, MP, AT THE NATURAL RESOURCES STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE, HELD AT THE KEMPINSKI HOTEL GOLD COAST, ACCRA ON THURSDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023**

Mr. President;

Greater Accra Regional Minister;

Ministers and Deputy Ministers of State;

Managing Director of Graphic Communications Group Limited;

Chairpersons and Members of Governing Boards;

Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Nananom, Niimeɪ, Naamei;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

As always, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is grateful to the President of the Republic, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, for the extraordinary leadership demonstrated in the management and utilisation of our natural resources, and for graciously accepting the invitation of the Ministry and the Graphic Communications Group Limited to open this all-important stakeholder dialogue.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, we have met here, this morning, through this Natural Resources Stakeholder Conference, to dialogue and to forge a common path for the wholistic management and utilisation of our natural resources. That is why the theme for this Dialogue is ***“Harnessing Our Natural Resources Responsibly for Sustainable Collective Good.”***

It is crucial to note that issues of natural resources go beyond our lands, forests, wildlife and mineral resources, which are within the mandate of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, but include other resources such as water, fossil fuels, fisheries, renewable energy resources, amongst others. All these resources are, however, intrinsically connected to each other. The management of our forest and mineral resources have a direct bearing on our water and marine resources, as they affect our

lands, rivers, streams and other natural resources.

Indeed, history tells us that the two failed Land Bills of 1894 and 1897 were inspired by attempts by the colonial government to take over the mineral and forest resources of our nation. This, eventually, led to the Concessions Ordinance of 1900, a compromised law, which, unlike the Land Bills, did not vest the lands in the Crown, but placed restrictions on the right of chiefs to grant concessions for the exploitation of minerals and other natural resources.

Colonial regulation of the natural resources sector was, largely, geared towards security of tenure for concessionaires, and generating revenue for the colonial Government. This continued into post-independence, when all natural resources in their natural state were vested in the President of the Republic, for and on behalf of the people of Ghana.

Distinguished Guests, our world is, however, changing at a very fast rate, and this is having direct consequences, even on the management of the world's resources. A few years ago, the thought of *sand* becoming a scarce commodity would, probably, have sounded ridiculous. Today, with some fifty billion tonnes of *sand* mined, annually, across the globe, there are fears that the world may run out of *sand* in the coming years.

The management of natural resources, therefore, is not just about protection and exploitation, but also more importantly about sustainability, environmental protection, mitigating climate crisis, and ensuring optimal benefit for the owners of these resources. That is why, pursuant to the instructions of President Akufo-Addo, we have been taking several measures, over the past few years, to ensure the effective, efficient and sustainable management of our natural resources, and even, significantly, implementing policies aimed at retaining the value chain of these resources in-country.

We have ramped up local content and local participation in the mining industry, by increasing the items on the Local Procurement List of goods and services reserved for Ghanaians from twenty-nine (29) in 2018 to fifty (50) this year. This will ensure that we retain, here in our country, some three billion US dollars (US\$3 billion), annually, which would, otherwise, have been exported.

We are working with the Ghana Chamber of Mines and the Securities and Exchange Commission to ensure that large scale mining companies list on the Ghana Stock Exchange. Already, Asante Gold Corporation has listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange, and several other mining companies are in the

process of doing so.

Through the intervention of President Akufo-Addo, the Obuasi mine was brought back to life in 2019, and the Bibiani mine, which had been dormant for some seven (7) years, was also revived last year. These measures have contributed immensely to our gold output and the growth of the national economy. Today, gold alone accounts for more than forty percent (40%) of our total export receipts.

But we are not relaxing. Three (3) new large scale mining operations are scheduled to start production within the next two years, including Newmont Ahafo North in the Ahafo Region, Azumah Resources in the Upper West Region, and Cardinal Namdini in the Upper East Region, which, when completed, will become the third largest gold mine in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I speak, a technical committee is finalising a policy document on the exploitation, management and utilisation of our green minerals, including lithium, for the consideration of Cabinet. Our goal is to ensure that, as much as possible, we retain the value chain of these future and other minerals in our country.

In the forestry sector, in addition to the Green Ghana Project, we are implementing programmes such as the Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy, under which some six hundred and ninety thousand hectares (690,000 ha) of forest have been cultivated between 2017 and 2022; the Cocoa and Forest Initiative; the Ghana REDD+ Strategy, under which we are already receiving results-based payments for emission reduction; the Forest Investment Programme, and the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, through which we are tracing wood from the forest to final disposal, among others.

Apart from these aggressive afforestation and reforestation measures, we are taking stringent steps to cordon off and protect our forest resources from attacks by illegal miners, illegal loggers, agricultural expansionists, and other drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, systematically, the Government of President Akufo-Addo is putting in place the necessary building blocks to construct, in our country, a viable, sustainable, effective, efficient and environmentally-sound natural resources sector, that generates employment, and contributes, meaningfully, to the development of our country.

We recognise that there are still challenges. Undoubtedly, our objective is yet to be fully

accomplished. And that is one of the reasons we have gathered here today.

Mr. President, Hon. Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, while it is the responsibility of Government, through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, to regulate and manage the utilisation of these resources, we understand the important role other stakeholders play in the discharge of this mandate. Hence, this Dialogue.

It is our hope that, through this timely Dialogue, we can forge a common path to manage sustainably our natural resources, add value to them, retain the highest end of the industry, contribute to the national economy, whilst, at the same time, protecting our environment for our collective good.

We, at the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, under the outstanding leadership of President Akufo-Addo, remain fully committed to working with all stakeholders to construct a sustainable and value-added natural resources sector, anchored on transparency, integrity and utmost good faith for the benefit of the Ghanaian people, the true owners of these resources.

I thank you for your attention.



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, H.E. NANA ADDO  
DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO, AT THE NATURAL RESOURCES STAKEHOLDER  
DIALOGUE, HELD AT THE KEMPINSKI HOTEL GOLD COAST, ACCRA, ON  
THURSDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023**

Eminent Clergy;

Greater Accra Regional Minister and Member of Parliament for Ayawaso Central Constituency;

Minister for Lands and Natural Resources and Member of Parliament for Damongo Constituency;

Ministers and Deputy Ministers of State;

Members of Parliament;

Chairpersons and Members of Governing Boards;

Chief Executive Officers;

Managing Director of Daily Graphic

Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives;

Nananom, Niime, Naamei;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

I want to thank the Graphic Communications Group Limited, under the leadership of its outstanding Managing Director, Mr. Ato Afful, and their partners, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, for putting together this timely Dialogue.

When I called for a national dialogue on illegal small scale mining, in my address to Parliament on January 4, 2021, I did so out of the conviction that, even though a lot had been achieved in this area between 2017 and 2021, illegal small scale mining remained a challenge, and continued to pose a threat to our very survival. A few months later, through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, this dialogue was held, and was followed by Regional Dialogues.

Out of these Dialogues, several measures were adopted, geared towards coming to grips with illegal small scale mining. Undoubtedly, our situation would have been worse of, if we had not adopted these measures. But we cannot rest while these illegalities still persist.

Today, I open this dialogue not to discuss just illegal small scale mining, instead, the broader consequential issue of how we exploit utilise and manage the natural resources of our nation, and particularly, I should say, what has been described as the Green Minerals, the minerals of the future, in order to harness these resources for our sustainable collective good.

Fellow Ghanaians, the importance of natural resources to humankind cannot be overemphasised. Our everyday lives, depend, one way or the other, on our natural resources. Today, most of the things we use, from electricity to smart phones to the vehicles we drive, are derived from our natural resources. The lives and livelihoods of millions of our citizens depend on these natural resources. The renowned American Forester and former Governor of Pennsylvania, Gifford Pinchot, was, therefore, spot on, when he said about a century ago that “*Without natural resources life itself is impossible.*”

As far back as 1952, when most parts of our continent were still under colonial rule, the United Nations, in its Declaration on Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources, encouraged underdeveloped countries to exploit and use their natural resources for economic development. The question, therefore, is not whether to exploit our natural resources or not, but how to sustainably exploit these resources for national development. This is a historical problem, not only in our country, but across our continent.

Undoubtedly, our continent is blessed with a lot of natural resources. After centuries of exploitation, Africa still holds some thirty percent (30%) of the world’s mineral reserves, and even higher proportions of gold, diamond, bauxite and manganese. But the contribution of these resources to our socio-economic development has been somewhat awful. With all these resources, we should have been the richest continent in the world. The irony, however, is that African remains the poorest continent on the planet.

Recent data from the World Bank shows that some sixty percent (60%) of the world's extreme poor live in sub-Saharan Africa, with most resource-rich countries on our continent being among the poorest in the world, including countries that hold huge deposits of iron ore, diamonds, bauxite and the largest rutile reserves in the world; the largest producer of cobalt, second largest producer of

industrial diamonds, and fifth largest producer of copper; as well as the world's largest reserves of bauxite.

Worst of all, many of the areas where these resources are found appear to be among the most deprived areas in the world. In our country for example, Obuasi, which, for years, hosted the richest gold mine in the world, remains largely underdeveloped. The story is no different from other areas such as Tarkwa, Prestea, Wassa, and Bibiani, which have for centuries been the attraction for adventurers and fortune seekers.

The truth is that we have not always done well in negotiations with the companies that exploit our natural resources. Among other things such as corruption, incompetence, and political instability, we have mostly been short-sighted in these negotiations, and therefore end up settling for less. And worst still, we have, until recently, failed to put in place the requisite frameworks which will enable us establish the highest end of the value chain of the extractive industry in our continent.

Extensive tax and royalty exemptions, intolerable labour practices and lack of value addition in-country have resulted in extraordinary profits to mining companies, at the expense of our countries. We cannot repeat these mistakes. While we understand that mining companies must make profit from their business, it is important that this is done not at the expense of the lands and the peoples that provide these resources.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, we must, and should harness our natural resources for sustainable development. This requires us to ensure that the exploitation of these resources does not destroy the natural environment that provides us with subsistence. We must ensure that mining contracts address issues of environmental protection, the payment of adequate compensation to affected communities and the development of the areas where these resources are derived. We must find a lasting solution to illicit financial flows associated with the natural resources sector.

The Washington based Global Financial Integrity, for example reports that of the over One Trillion US Dollars illicit financial flows from the continent between 1970 and 2008, the extractive industry was the major contributor, largely through corruption, illegal exploitation and tax evasion. We cannot sustainably develop if this continues.

We must tackle head-on the issues of illegalities in the extractive sector, including illegal mining and

illegal logging, which have over the years, been a source of destruction to our forests, water bodies and arable lands, and deprived us of the resources needed for development. This is a collective responsibility. Government has its role, but Government's efforts will come to naught if we all fail to do our part in this exercise. To borrow the words of the celebrated American playwright, Eda LeShan,

***“Until every individual feels personally responsible for the careful planning and the preservation of natural resources, the inexorable destruction will go on.”***

Fellow Ghanaians, I do not say these to shirk the responsibility of Government, but to emphasise that the protection and preservation of our natural resources requires all-hands-on-deck approach. These resources have the potential to transform, our country, and indeed, our continent. As many of you may be aware, for several years, the extractive sector has been the largest tax base of our country, apart from providing thousands of employment to several young men and women.

The truth, however, is that, over the years, we have not benefited, optimally, from these resources, due to our overdependence on the export of raw products. There is no gainsaying that the real value of the natural resources sector lies in value addition. The global aluminium industry, for example, from bauxite mining, through alumina smelting and aluminium production, is estimated to be in excess of One Hundred and Eighty Billion US Dollars (US\$180,000,000,000.00). But raw bauxite accounts for only seven point six six percent (7.6%) of this market, while the remaining ninety-two point three four percent (92.4%) is generated from processed bauxite.

This is not different from gold, iron ore, manganese, diamond, cobalt, or lithium. Indeed, currently, African countries involved in the production of lithium are said to be making just about ten percent (10%) of the entire value chain of the electric battery industry.

This is why Government has prioritised local content and local participation, as well as value addition in the natural resources sector to ensure that we derive optimal benefits from these God-given resources. Let me acknowledge the Ghana Chamber of Mines, the Ghana Institute of Foresters, the Ghana Institution of Surveyors, and all other stakeholders, for their cooperation in the implementation of these policies, and call on the Ghana Chamber of Mines, to expedite work on the listing of their members on the Ghana Stock Exchange.

Through the Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation (GIADEC), established in 2018, we are working to ensure value addition to our bauxite resources, through refining, smelting, aluminium production, as well as production of other downstream aluminium products. I have been briefed that the Four Project Agenda of GIADEC, which I launched in 2021, is progressing steadily, with Project 2, 3 and 4 approved by Cabinet and are at different stages of implementation. Project one is still under negotiations, and will soon be put before Cabinet.

The implementation of this Four Project Agenda is expected to optimise production in the upstream industry, and spur production and job creation in the downstream sector. With an estimated bauxite resource base of over nine hundred million metric tonnes (900,000,000Mt), this sector can serve as an anchor for industrialisation if we continue to pursue value-added policies.

We are doing the same with our iron ore resources, through the Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation (GIISDEC), initiated in 2019. With global automotive giants such as, Toyota, Nissan, Volkswagen, Suzuki and Sinotruck, all established here in our country, developing an integrated iron and steel industry, along with an integrated aluminium industry, is not just desirable, but necessary for the development we yearn for.

By section 28 of the GIADEC law, and section 30 of the GIISDEC law, the Minister for Mines is empowered to make Regulations to ensure that no bauxite or iron ore in their raw state are exported out of the country after five years of the coming into force of these laws. With the policies and other measures we are putting in place, we intend to invoke these provisions of our laws, and very soon, bauxite and iron ore will not be exported in their raw state from the country. We will ensure that the highest value of these minerals are retained in our country

We cannot forget lithium and the other green minerals, which have been described as the minerals of the future, due to their importance to the green energy transition. Fortunately, for us, we have discovered lithium in commercial quantities, and occurrences of cobalt, nickel, copper, lead, zinc and chromium in parts of our country.

We cannot do with these minerals, what we have done with our gold resources over the years. I am happy to learn that the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is finalising a policy document for the exploitation, utilisation and management of these crucial minerals for the consideration of Cabinet in the few weeks ahead of us. Let me assure you that we will do whatever it takes to ensure

that the exploitation and utilisation of these green minerals are done in an environmentally-sound manner, and in a way that ensures optimal benefit to the people of Ghana. This we will never compromise.

We have, through a Public Private Partnership, established a Four Hundred Kilogrammes per day capacity refinery, to refine the gold we produce. Work is progressing steadily on securing a London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) Certification to be able to easily trade our refined gold on the international market.

Today, for the first time in our history, the Bank of Ghana is implementing a Domestic Gold Purchase Programme, which was launched June 2021 to purchase gold domestically to shore up our reserves. This has culminated in an agreement with large scale mining companies, where the Bank of Ghana purchases twenty percent (20%) of their refined gold in cedis, again easing the pressure on the Ghana Cedi. For well over the century that we have been mining gold, our gold reserves, between the 1980s and June 2021, were just eight tonnes (8t). Under the Domestic Gold Purchase Programme, our gold reserves have increased from 8 to 14 tonnes as at the end of the 2022, that is just 18 months of implementation of this programme.

Excellencies, Hon. Ministers, Nananom, Niime, Naamei, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, we understand our duty as trustees of our natural resources, for and on behalf of the people of Ghana, and we remain committed to do right by the Ghanaian people in the discharge of our duties as trustees of these resources. But we will continue to count on your support in the discharge of this onerous mandate. I am confident that out this Conference, we can all renew our commitment to the sustainable management of our natural resources, while protecting our natural environment for current and future generations.

On this note, I have the singular honour to declare the two-day Natural Resources Stakeholder Dialogue, under the theme “*Harnessing our Natural Resources for our Sustainable Collective Good*” duly opened. I wish you fruitful discussions and look forward to the outcome of the Conference.

May God bless us all, and our homeland Ghana, and make her great and strong.

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, HON. GEORGE MIREKU DUKER, MP AT THE DAY TWO OF STAKEHOLDERS' NATURAL RESOURCE DIALOGUE**

The Chief Director of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

The Managing Director of the Graphic Communications Group

The CEOs of Government Agencies Present

Directors of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

Invited Guest

Ladies and Gentlemen

I warmly welcome you to the final day (Day 2) of the Stakeholders' Natural Resource Dialogue, which was duly launched yesterday by H.E. the President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, supported by the sector Minister, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor.

Indeed, the President attached great importance to the natural resource governance which is anchored on sustainability and broad based stakeholder collaboration and partnership. This, as he reiterated yesterday informed the organization of the first ever National Dialogue on Small Scale Mining followed by two similar regional ones.

Since that incipient call for all hands to be on deck many well-meaning organizations like the Graphic Communications Group have responded favourably.

Indeed, he further emphasized that, without Natural Resources, life is impossible and it is the reason why collective responsibility is needed in fighting the irregularities in the sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is the belief of the President that this dialogue will renew our commitment in promoting sustainable natural resources exploitation for our collective good.

As you go into plenary let me remind all of us of the President's call on us to ensure:

- i. Mining contracts address issues of:

- environmental degradation
- illicit financial outflows associated with the extractive industry;
- smuggling;
- corruption;
- Illegal mining and logging that have resulted in the destruction of our environment.

ii. There is the need also to consider conversation on:

- National Traceability Plan;
- A plan to have tangible projects on the back of revenue from the mining companies;  
and
- Sustainable Small Scale Awareness or Consciousness.

The sector Minister also emphasized that the Ministry's mandate recognizes the importance of stakeholder collaboration and partnership in promoting sustainable Natural Resources sector and that a common path toward effective management of our natural resources can be forged through this dialogue.

It is refreshing to note that, Ghana Stock Exchange is being ignited by having mining companies listed. This will position the future of the industry to a positive and well-enhanced portfolio.

Earlier in his opening remarks the Managing Director of the Daily Graphic moreover, indicated that the objective of the dialogue, is to achieve broad consensus on how to progress from where we are on "Harnessing our Natural Resources for sustainable Collective Good".

He also emphasized the role of Ghana's natural resource endowment in shaping its developmental agenda but noted how the exploitation has resulted in the devastation of the environment. He reminded us that most of these resources are finite and hence the need to promote its sustainable exploitation.

Most importantly, he created awareness of rolling out proactive measures that could trigger our commitment towards transformed achievable steps.



The Panellists in their discourse also generally agreed that natural resource exploitation is good as it helps in the advancement of society but because most of these resources are by nature finite, their exploitation should be done responsibly and sustainably. They defined sustainability to include:

- i. channeling natural resource investment and returns into areas that will sustain other industries or productive ventures;
- ii. conducting the exploitation of resources in an efficient manner;
- iii. upholding responsible mining practices;
- iv. deepening community engagement;
- v. mining in a way to ensure that, it catalyzes sustainable development; and
- vi. leveraging on the mining industry to develop other sectors.

Ladies and gentlemen, the take away from the President's speech delivered yesterday was that, even though Africa commands about 30% of the world's natural resources, its development is ironically the lowest in the world. There is, therefore, the need to find ways of translating this share of the world's natural resource into sustainable development.

Let these thoughts guide our discussions as we enter into plenary to enable us come up with ideas to unlock the full potential of our natural resources.

Thank you and May God bless all

**CLOSING REMARKS BY THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION, HON. KOJO  
OPPONG NKURUMAH MP AT THE NATURAL RESOURCES STAKEHOLDER  
DIALOGUE, HELD AT THE KEMPINSKI HOTEL GOLD COAST, ACCRA ON FRIDAY,  
12<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023**

The Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. George Mireku Duker

Our reverend ministers

Traditional Leaders

The Chief Director of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

The Managing Director of the Graphic Communications Group

The CEOs of Government Agencies

Directors of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured to deliver the concluding remarks for the two-day stakeholder dialogue on harnessing our natural resources responsibly for our sustainable collective good. I would like to congratulate the Graphic Communication Group Limited (GCGL) and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for planning and executing this national assignment with dedication and precision.

I thank the various panellists and all participants who have contributed in diverse ways to make this programme a success.

Natural resources play a pivotal role in our lives. They are the fulcrum of a country's economic, social and environmental growth. In Ghana, our natural resources contribute to income generation, creation of employment for the citizenry and tax receipts on mineral production which help government in providing social services including education, healthcare delivery, provision of electricity and infrastructure.

The exploitation of these natural resources have over the years led to the destruction of the environment, loss of properties and in some instances loss of human lives.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the issues regarding our natural resources are so dear to the heart of President

Akufo-Addo and he has, on many occasions, demonstrated his commitment to preserve and protect our natural resources for the greater economic good of our citizenry. President Akufo-Addo is not only concerned with the protection and preservation of our natural resources, but how these resources can be effectively exploited to ensure the country derives optimal benefits from them.

Indeed, Government, under the leadership of President Akufo-Addo, has established the Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation (GIADEC) and the Ghana Integrated Iron and Steel Development Corporation (GIISDEC) to ensure the retention of the full value chain of our minerals, from production to other downstream production.

A number of measures have been put in place by Government to ensure that Ghana obtains the real value of these natural resources since the real value in these resources lies in value addition. I am happy to learn that the implementation of GIADEC's four projects will steer growth in the upstream industry. I would like to commend the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources for working assiduously to get refineries in Ghana. This will ensure that we realise the full value chain of our minerals.

The recent discovery of lithium and other critical minerals in commercial quantities in Ghana, ought to be given serious attention. It is important for Government to put in place modalities which will ensure that these critical minerals are efficiently exploited in order for the country to derive the optimal benefits for our sustainable collective good. It is time to change the status quo of mining and exporting our minerals in its raw form.

Distinguish guests, ladies and gentlemen, we cannot talk about our mineral resources without paying attention to the need to protect our lands and forests. These mineral resources are found beneath our lands and in our forests. Therefore, protection of our lands and forests should be the primary focus of every Ghanaian. Stakeholders' dialogues such as this, is very consequential for creating awareness for the effective management of our lands, forests and natural resources.

Through this dialogue, we have discussed the interventions Government have put in place and how government is working to ensure that we derive the needed benefits from our natural resources. We have also learnt about policies and regulations which can be pursued to enable us get the maximum benefits from our resources, we have also had discussions about the extent of preventing encroachment of our state lands, how we can effectively address the numerous challenges within the

land sector.

The discussion on the state of Ghana's forests, has enlightened us on how we can contribute towards restoring our forests, how to prevent illegal logging and the measures which can be used to address deforestation and forest degradation.

Distinguish guests, ladies and gentlemen, I believe we have all heard the saying by the famous Indian Lawyer and statesman, Mahatma Ghandi, ***"be the change you want to see in the world"***. We gathered here since yesterday to deliberate on how we can effectively harness our natural resources, in this room, we have had Ministers of State, traditional leaders, reverend ministers, CEOs of various government institutions, directors of Ministries, civil servants among others. Let us aspire to make a change where we are. I am of the firm conviction that the little change each one of us makes, will go a long way to bring about the change we so much desire.

Congratulations to the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the Graphic Communication Group Limited (GCGL) for a successful two day programme. Let us go home not only to reflect on what has been discussed since yesterday, but to also share with our colleagues, family and friends, resolutions of this dialogue.

I will end my remarks by urging all of us to belly up to the bar and get to work.

I thank you for your attention.

### ***10.3 APPENDIX C: PHOTO GALLERY***



**Arrival H.E President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo for the Opening of the Dialogue**



**H.E President Akufo Addo delivery the keynote address**



**The Hon. Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon Samuel A. Jinapor at the Dialogue**



**Hon. Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor's opening address**





*The MD of Graphic Communications Group Limited, Mr. Ato Afful delivering his address*



*H.E President Nana Akufo Addo (centre) flanked by the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor(3<sup>rd</sup> left), Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources responsible for Mining, Hon. George Mireku Duker (2<sup>nd</sup> Left), Editor of Graphic, Mr. Theophilous Yartey (Far Left), MD of Graphic, Mr Ato Afful (3<sup>rd</sup> right), Board Chair of the Minierals Commission, Hon. Barbara Oteng Gyasi (2<sup>nd</sup> right) and Chief Director of the Ministry of Lands, Professor Patrick Agbesinyale(far right)*



*A Panel discussion in session*



*Cross Section of Distinguished guests present*





**A Cultural troop displaying at the arrival of the President**



***Hon. Dep. Minister for LNR responsible for Mining delivering the welcome address on Day 2***



*The Hon. Minister for Information, Hon Kojo Oppong Nkrumah delivering the closing remarks*



*The CEO of the Minerals Commission, Mr. Martin Ayisi speaking during the breakout session*





*Participants of the Lands Sector breakout session*



*Participants of the Forestry Sector breakout session*



*The Minister for Information, Hon Kojo Oppong Nkrumah (4<sup>th</sup> from left) flanked by the MD of Graphic, Mr Ato Afful (3<sup>rd</sup> left), Editor of Graphic, Mr. Theophilous Yartey (far right) as well as some Chiefs and other dignitaries*



*The Editor of Graphic, Mr Theophilous Yartey deliverinnng the vote of thanks*





*#SaveOurNaturalResource #BeResponsible #StopDeforestationNow  
#StopGalamseyNow #ResponsibleSandwinningNow*

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