

SEP 25 - SEP 29 2023



MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

# MLNR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER



HON. SAMUEL A. JINAPOR (MP)

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MINISTER FOR LANDS AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES

# ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

(HEADLINES)

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- **GHANA TO BECOME FIRST AFRICAN COUNTRY TO ISSUE FLEGT LICENSE**
- **LANDS MINISTER ADMONISHES MEDIA TO PARTNER GOV'T ON COMBATING NATURE CRIMES**
- **EXPLOITATION OF AFRICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES MUST MEET EXPECTATIONS OF CITIZENS- DEPUTY LANDS MINISTER**
- **MLNR NATIONAL SERVICE PERSONNEL RECEIVE VALUABLE CAREER GUIDANCE AT EXIT CONFERENCE**





## GHANA TO BECOME FIRST AFRICAN COUNTRY TO ISSUE FLEGT LICENSE

Ghana is in the final stages of becoming the 1st African country to issue FLEGT license to cover its timber and wood products traded on the European Market. The feat was achieved during the 11th Joint Monitoring and Review Mechanism meeting held between Ghana and the EU in Brussels between 20th – 26th September, 2023.

This places Ghana as the 2nd country in the world after Indonesia to begin the trade in legally certified wood and wood products with the EU under the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) mechanism.

Ghana's Timber Legality Assurance System when it becomes fully operational in 2024, will mark over a decade of institutional and regulatory reforms in the trade in legal timber. It will also be evidence of the Government's commitments at responsible management of the nation's forest resources.

In November 2009, Ghana became the first timber-producing country to sign a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (hereinafter referred to as VPA or Agreement) with European Union (EU). The Agreement entered into force on 1 December 2009.

A FLEGT licence is an export licence issued by a VPA partner country for timber or timber related products destined for the EU market which certifies that the timber or timber related products exported under that licence are legal. Under the FLEGT licence, timber and timber related products covered by a valid FLEGT licence automatically meet the requirements of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and prohibits the placing onto the EU market illegally harvested timber and timber related products derived from such timber.

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor, MP, led a high-level Ghanaian delegation made up of representatives from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Lands and Forest and key stakeholder groups, including the Ghanaian public authorities in charge of forest administration, private sector and civil society, at the 11th Joint Monitoring and Review Mechanism (JMRM) meeting in Brussels from 20 - 26 September, 2023.

This JMRM sought to advance on the final procedural steps towards the issuance of FLEGT licences.

This meeting marks a major milestone in the global fight against illegal timber trade and testaments to achieving the VPA objective of improved forest governance.

This session of the JMRM was the first since May 2019, and also the first one to be convened outside of Ghana. During the technical meetings, the Parties reviewed and discussed the status of implementation of the Agreement.

The Parties also agreed on the Joint Action Plan towards FLEGT licensing, and raised outstanding procedural issues to be addressed before FLEGT licences can be issued. The FLEGT licences attest to the legality of Ghana's timber and will facilitate trade in timber and timber related products for both exporters and importers.

In 2016, Indonesia became the first country in the world to issue FLEGT licences. With the conclusion of the VPA, Ghana will become the second country in the world and the first in Africa to issue FLEGT licence.

According to Koen Doens, Director General at the European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA), "Over the years, we have witnessed a remarkable dedication to sustainable forest management and the combatting of illegal logging.

The dedication of Ghana's government and its forestry sector, alongside the support and cooperation of our European partners, has brought us to the cusp of FLEGT licensing. This achievement underscores the power of international cooperation in addressing critical global challenges such as deforestation and illegal logging. We look forward to the positive impact that FLEGT licensing will have on Ghana's timber industry and the broader environment, demonstrating how partnerships and persistent efforts can lead to meaningful change".

Ghana has undertaken major legislative reforms in its forestry sector to enhance forest governance which supports the objectives of the VPA and Ghana's commitment to sustainable forest management and the fight against climate change.

In addition to these advances, Ghana is also addressing the trade of illegal timber in both domestic and regional markets. In this regard, Ghana is rolling out a new system for tracking timber on the domestic market that involves both suppliers and traders, and requires proof of legality through the chain of custody.

The Hon. Minister for Lands and Natural Resources of Ghana, Mr. Samuel A. Jinapor, MP, stated that Ghana has seen significant improvements in forest governance with the implementation and operation of the timber legality assurance system. He indicated that the impending issuance of FLEGT licenses to the EU market and licenses to other international destinations will be undergirded with the same legality standards.





## LANDS MINISTER ADMONISHES MEDIA TO PARTNER GOV'T ON COMBATING NATURE CRIMES

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor has called on the media to partner government and the Lands Ministry in the creation of awareness on nature crimes in the country and across. He stressed that the public needs to be informed of the urgency of the situation and the adverse effects of these crimes.

Minister Jinapor, who was speaking at a nature crime workshop organized for journalists by the US Agency for Global Media, on 29th September, 2023 was passionate when he said educating the general public on the importance of natural resources and biodiversity, and the debilitating consequence of these crimes on lives and the planet will certainly make lasting imprints on the minds of the people and bring about behavioural changes.

The Lands Minister magnified the far reaching and diverse effects of these crimes and why the need to eliminate them as soon as practicable.

"Nature crimes are diverse, and cut across various sectors of our economy, including Land, Forestry, Mining, Environment, Fisheries, Maritime, and Waste Management. Crimes such as illegal fishing, illegal mining, illegal logging, illegal overland export, under-declaration of products, mislabelling of products, poaching, wildlife trafficking, illicit wildlife trading, and land degradation, continue to threaten our environment, biodiversity, and the lives and livelihoods of millions of people across the world, while robbing us of the resources needed for development."







## **EXPLOITATION OF AFRICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES MUST MEET EXPECTATIONS OF CITIZENS- DEPUTY LANDS MINISTER**

Hon. George Mireku Duker, the Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources has emphasized that exploitation of natural resources in Ghana and Africa at large must result in tangible benefits for the general population.

According to him, there must be synergistic relationship between mining industries and the citizens characterized by equal beneficiaries for both exploiters and the citizenry and equitable management of natural resources.

In a speech delivered at a Stakeholder Forum organized by the Minerals Income Investment Fund (MIIF), the Deputy Minister emphasized on the need for African countries to create symbiotic relationship that culminates in wealth creation for every party involved in the chain. This, he reckons, can be attained through the deliberate and coordinated efforts of raising local giants in the industry.

"I reiterated to the gathering and colleague African Ministers that exploitation of Africa's Natural Resources must meet the expectations of her citizens. The expectation of the ordinary Ghanaian is to benefit from the Minerals revenue of the state and we must ensure it is done", he stated.

"The good people of Tarkwa, an enclave that accounts for over 40% of total gold produced in country and home to the only Manganese Mine, are very happy that, their road network from Takoradi to Tarkwa is being constructed. You can imagine the attacks, when their roads were bad and knowing how much they contribute to the State's exchequer", he added

"Let me repeat: Without the value chain development intended to create local wealth from the resources, acquire know-how and boost employment, we will forever live on scraps and not enjoy our God-given natural resources,"

Hon. Mireku Duker motioned that the H. E the President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's government has taken the lead in that regard by ensuring that small-scale mining sector is reserved exclusively for Ghanaians.

He listed a number of companies whose successful stories sheds light on the positive and impactful outcome of the commendable policies instituted by government in the mining industry.

"President Nana Akufo Addo has given us our marching orders to create wealth for Ghanaians, and the laws are aligning in the mining sector more quickly than expected. For instance, mining supplies, thanks to the work of the Minerals Commission and my Ministry, are wholly in the hands of Ghanaians now. For example, Tailings Storage Facility construction, Medical Services, Assaying and Motor Rewinding are now reserved exclusively for Ghanaian businesses.

The Deputy Minister was glowing in his commendation of MIIF for the strategic role they have played so far but tasked them to liaise with the Minerals Commission, University of Mines and Technology and other relevant agencies to development a framework for deepening engagement between mining agencies and effective management of Ghana's natural resources.

On his part, the Chief Executive Officer of MIIF , Mr. Edward Nana yaw Koranteng mentioned the need for his outfit to develop partnership with company and industry players to undertake various projects that will ensure that the works of MIIF are manifested in the country.





## MLNR NATIONAL SERVICE PERSONNEL RECEIVE VALUABLE CAREER GUIDANCE AT EXIT CONFERENCE

The exit conference for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) National Service Personnel was held on Friday, September 29, 2023. The conference, organized by the Human Resource Directorate of the Ministry, featured a pivotal presentation by Mr. Ben Aryee, Advisor on Mines to the Honourable Minister.

During the presentation, Mr. Ben Aryee urged the Service Personnel to develop SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) long and short-term goals. He emphasized that these goals would serve as vital guides in shaping their life and career paths. Addressing the personnels, Mr. Aryee emphasized the importance of positioning themselves effectively in the job market. "You must position yourselves to survive the job market," he maintained, underlining the competitive nature of the employment landscape.

The conference served as a platform for Service Personnel to gain valuable insights into career development, setting them on the path to success as they conclude their national service.





# SECTOR MINISTER & HIS DEPUTIES



Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor (MP)  
*Minister – Lands & Natural Resources*



Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio (MP)  
*Deputy Minister in charge of  
Lands & Forestry*



Hon. George Mireku Duker (MP)  
*Deputy Minister in charge of Mines*

# CONTACT US



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**2023**

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## AGENCIES UNDER THE MINISTRY





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