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MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MLNR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER



HON. SAMUEL A. JINAPOR, MP

**MINISTER FOR LANDS AND
NATURAL RESOURCES**

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

(HEADLINES)

- **INCREASE FOREST FINANCE TO SAVE OUR PLANET – LANDS MINISTER STATES AT UN FORUM ON FORESTS**
- **APPIAH KUBI COMMITTEE SUBMITS REPORT ON DE-VESTING OF LANDS TO LANDS MINISTER**
- **LANDS MINISTRY EQUIPS STAFF WITH RTI TRAINING**



INCREASE FOREST FINANCE TO SAVE OUR PLANET – LANDS MINISTER STATES AT UN FORUM ON FORESTS

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor, MP, has called on world leaders to increase financing for forest action, to tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Speaking at the Nineteenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF19), at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Minister said the capacity of forests in combating the triplet planetary crises calls for an urgent need to re-examine forest financing options to stimulate investment efforts towards achieving the globally agreed goals on forests, climate change and biodiversity.

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), established in 2000 to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, and to strengthen long-term political commitment towards this goal. Made up all UN Member States, the Forum meets annually, to assess progress of work, adopt decisions and make commitments towards achieving the goal of the Forum.

The nineteenth session of the Forum, which begun on 6th May, 2024, is also undertaking a mid-term review of the implementation of the International Arrangements on Forests. On Thursday, 9th May, the Forum held its High-Level Ministerial Segment and forest partnership dialogue on the theme, “Forest-based solutions to the triple planetary crises: A focus on people, science and technology.”

Addressing the Forum, Mr. Jinapor decried the continuous destruction of global forests, despite the increasing global knowledge and understanding of environmental challenges and the potential of forests to contribute to tackling these challenges. According to the World Resources Institute, tropical primary forest loss in 2023 alone, totalled three point seven million hectares (3.7million ha), and accounted for two point four gigatonnes of carbon dioxide emissions (2.4GtCO₂e). And it is estimated that some Three Hundred and Ninety-Three Billion US Dollars (US\$393 billion) is required, annually, to save the world’s forests.

Referring to these statistics, Mr. Jinapor said global leaders need to take urgent, concerted and collaborative action to save the world’s forests, the planet, and the lives and livelihoods of the one point six billion (1.6 billion) people who depend on forest resources for survival. He said Ghana, under the leadership of President Akufo-Addo, has taken several initiatives aimed at forest protection and conservation, including the Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy, the Green Ghana Project, and the Ghana REDD+ Strategy.

Mr. Jinapor said developing countries which host some forty-five percent (45%) of global forests, face enormous challenges in protection and conservation, particularly financial challenges. He said Ghana has had to expend her limited resources on sustainable forest management due to the importance Government attaches to forest.

The Minister bemoaned the continuous default by developed countries to honour their pledges to support developing countries in sustainable forest management. This lack of commitment, he noted, is, also, manifested in the inconsistency in carbon pricing. “Why should the price of carbon in Europe, for example, be different from Africa, or in the Americas be different from Asia?”, the Minister quizzed.

He, also, called for a comprehensive programme for incentivising local communities that depend on forests to preserve these resources, noting that the world benefits more from forest conservation than the gains to these communities.

The Forum, which ends on Saturday, 11th May, 2024 will adopt a Declaration and a number of resolutions aimed at promoting sustainable forest management.



APPIAH KUBI COMMITTEE SUBMITS REPORT ON DE-VESTING OF LANDS TO LANDS MINISTER

The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor has on Monday, 6th May, 2024, received the report and recommendations of a five-member Committee he set up to review a preliminary report on the de-vesting of vested lands presented by the Lands Commission in 2022.

Receiving the report, the Honorable Minister commended the Committee for their exemplary work, acknowledging the profound significance of vested lands to traditional rulers and family heads across the nation. He underscored the long-standing nature of the issues surrounding these lands and expressed satisfaction that the report would serve as a crucial tool in resolving them.

He said the submission of this report tells that a pivotal milestone has been reached, signaling progress towards resolving complex issues surrounding vested lands in the country.

Hon. Jinapor pledged to thoroughly study the reports presented and make recommendations to the President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo which he was confident will guide Government in dealing with the issue of vested lands. "This will mean that in a not too distant future, the long-standing issue of vested lands will be dealt with once and for all" He added. He assured the public on behalf of the President, particularly the Chiefs, title holders and owners of various lands of the country that at long last the Akufo-Addo Government is going to resolve the issue of vested lands for the people of Ghana.

On his part, the Chairman of the Committee, a lawyer and Member of Parliament for Asante Akim North Constituency, and a former Deputy Minister for Railways Development, Hon. Andy Kwame Appiah Kubi expressing gratitude for the trust placed in them, conveyed optimism regarding the impact their report would have on governmental decision-making regarding vested lands. He emphasized the importance of their findings in guiding the government towards equitable and just resolutions in this critical area and in the future as and when needed.

He hoped that the submission of this report marks a significant chapter in the ongoing efforts to manage and govern lands in Ghana, setting the stage for informed decision-making and equitable outcomes in land-related matters.

The Committee is chaired by Hon. Andy Kwame Appiah Kubi, a lawyer and Member of Parliament for Asante Akim North Constituency, and a former Deputy Minister for Railway Development. The other members are, Kumbun-Naa Alhaji Naa Abu Iddrisu II, a surveyor and fellow of the Ghana Institute of Surveyors, representing the National House of Chiefs, Dr. Wordsworth Odame-Larbi, a Land Policy and Land Administration Consultant, representing the Ghana Institute of Surveyors, Mr. Dennis Adjei-Dwomoh Esq the Managing Partner of Law Plus, representing the Ghana Bar Association, and Mr. Maxwell Adu-Nsafoa, the Technical Director for Lands at the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and Deputy Executive Secretary in Charge of Operations at the Lands Commission.



LANDS MINISTRY EQUIPS STAFF WITH RTI TRAINING

The Right to Information Division, in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has organized a comprehensive Right to Information (RTI) training program on Thursday, May 9th, 2024, aimed at equipping ministry staff with essential knowledge and skills on the Act.

In accordance with section 45(c) of the Right to Information Act 2019 (Act 989), which mandates public institutions to conduct internal training for personnel, facilitators Mr. George Frimpong and Madam Genevieve Mawuena Wutoh from the Access to Information Division (ATID) guided participants through various aspects of the RTI Act. Topics covered included the Act's background, procedures for information application and processing, and exempt provisions in the Act. During the session, Mr. Frimpong also highlighted amendments made to the Act since its inception, ensuring participants were up-to-date with the latest legislative changes.

The RTI Act (Act 989) aims at promoting transparency and accountability by granting individuals access to information held by central and local governments, as well as publicly funded non-governmental organizations. The interactive nature of the training allowed participants to engage in discussions, ask questions, and provide valuable contributions, fostering a deeper understanding of the RTI principles and their practical application within the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.



SECTOR MINISTER & HIS DEPUTIES



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



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



Prof. Patrick Agbesinyale
Chief Director, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

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