

BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN GHANA

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Introduction: (1)

- This presentation is on the behalf of 40 Civil Society Organizations with the Natural Resources and Environment Sector of Ghana led by A Rocha Ghana and Kasa Initiative Ghana.
- This submission highlights specific developments and follow-up measures by Ghana in relation to the recommendations from Ghana's third cycle UPR 2017 Report and makes other recommendations to the issues raised.

Introduction: (2)

- Ghana received two recommendations on Business and Human Rights during the 3rd Cycle of the UPR process in 2017.
- 146.51: Integrate and apply the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to all its relevant policies including licensing extractive business (Republic of South Korea); and
- 147.18: Expedite action on the review of the Minerals and Mining Act to ensure sound management of the extractive sector to include control of illegal mining activities and integrate community rights (Kenya).

Emerging Issues in Mining– Issue 1

Implementation of Previous Recommendation:

- The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are yet to be integrated and applied domestically. It is worth noting that efforts are being made by Ghana to develop a national action plan for it.
- Ghana has lost control of illegal mining activities and community rights are severely being breached.

Emerging Issues in Mining– Issue 1

New developments:

- Human rights abuses as a result of large- scale salt production in the Ada Songor Lagoon
- Destruction of Communities due to Improper Explosives handling by Mining
- Human rights abuses perpetrated by Mining Companies in local communities
- Destruction of the environment, water bodies and lands due to the mining activities especially illegal mining (galamsey) affecting livelihoods and causing diseases

Recommendations – Issue 1

- Prioritize the review of the Minerals and Mining Act and the domestication of the African Mining Vision, ECOWAS Mining Code and the UN Guiding Principles on Business, Security and Human Rights;
- Enforce the status and profiling of the Ada Songor Lagoon as a Ramsar Site and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and prevent it from mining;
- Initiate actions to investigate, prosecute and compensate the affected persons of accidents caused by companies as a result of negligence of health and safety standards;
- Develop a business and human rights action plan which would ensure that shareholders and management of mining companies demonstrate their commitment to the UN Guiding Principle on Business and Human Rights.

Emerging Issues in Forestry– Issue 2

New developments:

- Human Rights Abuse in Managing Kalakpa Game Production Reserve: Right to Standard of Living Adequate for Health and Wellbeing.
- African Plantation for Sustainable Development (APSD) in Atebubu: Large Scale Land Acquisition and Violation of Property Rights.

Recommendations – Issue 2

- Collaborate with relevant agencies to appropriately resettle and/ or admit the communities within the Kalakpa reserves.
- Develop a Legislative Instrument to regulate large-scale land acquisition in Ghana as recommended by the Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036).

Emerging Issues in Climate Change – Issue 3

New developments:

- Sea Level rise and Coastal flooding in the Keta-Anlo Area in the Volta Region of Ghana: Threat to Social Security and Livelihood.

Recommendations – Issue 3

- Develop a Coastal Development Management Policy with allocated funds to implement it;
- Adopt an eco-friendly, non-partisan, and participatory approach to development options of the coastal region of Ghana.
- Build the capacity of local authorities to offer first-hand help to affected communities and support these communities to mitigate the effects of climate change; and build the capacity of communities to be able to respond to climate crises.
- Develop and implement coastal disaster risk preparedness and early warning systems for local people to make informed decisions and institute appropriate compensation schemes for loss and damage to alleviate the plight of climate disaster victims for alternate livelihoods.
- Develop a Climate Change Framework and Response Policy in line with global standards and practices to respond to changes in the climate.

Thank you



From all the 40 members of our coalition.