



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

To all Media Agencies

Commendations to Government for Revoking L.I. 2462; Time to Restore and Enhance Forest Management and Services to Ghanaians

Accra. Thursday 18th December 2025. We, the undersigned, express our profound gratitude to the Government of Ghana and Parliament for the successful revocation of L.I. 2462, a regulation that exposed Ghana's forest reserves, including Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas, to unfettered risks from mining.

The revocation follows advocacy and action by the Acting Minister for Environment, Science and Technology and Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, the Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah, who on 31st October laid before Parliament a new Legislative Instrument seeking to annul L.I. 2462. With Parliament having completed the constitutionally required 21 sitting days without any interventions, we are excited that L.I. 2462 has effectively been revoked.

We particularly extend our sincere appreciation to the media for amplifying our voices, and the voices of various individuals and institutions who added their support, including every Ghanaian who signed the petition calling for the repeal of L.I. 2462. Together, we have contributed our quota to give forests and future generations a chance. Ayekoo!

The repeal represents one of the most significant and progressive legislative reversals in Ghana's recent environmental history. Civil society groups, at home and abroad, see this step as a decisive move toward restoring the integrity of Ghana's fast-depleting forest estate.

Since its introduction in 2022, L.I. 2462 undermined long-standing sustainable forest management efforts, contradicted Ghana's Forest Development Master Plan (2016–2036) which aims to phase out all mining in forest reserves by 2036 undermined Ghana's efforts at institutionalising good forest governance and sustainable forest management practices, and weakened the country's alignment with international environmental

commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and other multilateral and bilateral accords.

Why L.I. 2462 Needed to Be Repealed

Data on the impact of L.I. 2462 highlighted the risks it posed to Ghana's forests:

- **Before 2022:** Only 2% of gazetted production forest areas were opened to mining for a limited number of large-scale mining companies; 98% remained protected and excluded from mining.
- **Under L.I. 2462:** 89% of forest reserves became exposed to mining, resulting in unprecedented direct and indirect pressure on forest reserves, with over 50 out of 288 forest reserves seriously under siege from mining interests.
- **Even after the 2025 amendment of L.I. 2462:** 80% of forests still faced significant risk.

Ghana's forests, like forests everywhere, protect critical sources of clean water, biodiversity, climate regulation, and livelihoods for communities near and far. Safeguarding our forest estate and improving forest cover and integrity should be the utmost priority of any progressive state, considering the invaluable provisioning services they provide for both present and future generations.

Key Recommendations Moving Forward

Despite the progressive revocation of the retrogressive L.I. 2462, Ghana's forests still face unprecedented pressure and threats. The Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Commission has indicated that although the state of forests with regard to mining has improved significantly compared to the same time last year, challenges persist, requiring proactive and dedicated efforts from every Ghanaian.

This revocation should translate into a renewed commitment to chart a new beginning of partnerships and collaborations to ensure that Ghana's vital forest ecosystems not only exist on paper but thrive for the benefit of all.

Building on this landmark intervention and the opportunities ahead, we make the following recommendations for further action by the government:

1. We encourage H.E. John Dramani Mahama to fulfil the promise of reviewing Act 703 to explicitly prohibit mining in forest reserves. There must be a paradigm shift towards mining practices that avoid the destruction of forests, biodiversity, and environmental pollution and degradation.
2. It is time to grow back Ghana's forests. We therefore urge priority action to develop and implement a National Forest Protection Strategy in collaboration with national and international partners.

3. L.I. 2462 is revoked, but chronic encroachment from artisanal mining, poaching, and illegal logging continues to destroy forests slowly but surely, and this must be addressed with the urgency it deserves.
4. Ensure that the “Tree for Life” programme targeting forest reserves is well coordinated and fully implemented so that it genuinely contributes to forest restoration rather than serving as rhetoric. Degraded areas outside forest reserves caused by mining should be mapped out for restoration to improve forest cover, biodiversity, and carbon dioxide sequestration.
5. We finally request that government act on the recommendations and way-forward proposals published by the Forestry Commission on 15th December 2025. We particularly emphasise the urgency of upgrading the capacity of the Forestry Commission to effectively address new-age threats undermining the sustainability of Ghana’s forests.

The repeal of L.I. 2462 marks a pivotal turn. To secure Ghana’s natural heritage and a sustainable future, action must now follow commitment. We, the undersigned, remain committed to mobilising and holding leadership accountable, ensuring that every policy reflects our urgent environmental, social, and climate priorities.

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| 1. Coalition Against Galamsey- Ghana | 10. Taylor Crabbe |
| 2. A Rocha Ghana | 11. Client Earth |
| 3. Kasa Initiative Ghana | 12. Civic Response |
| 4. Eco-Conscious Citizens | 13. Ghana Institute of Foresters |
| 5. BRACE | 14. Ghana Environmental Advocacy Group |
| 6. Nature and Development Foundation | 15. General Transport, Petroleum and Chemical Workers’ Union of TUC (Ghana) |
| 7. WACAM | 16. Peasant Farmers Association |
| 8. OXFAM | 17. SDG Civil Society Platform Ghana |
| 9. Christian Council of Ghana | |

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