



COMPREHENSIVE WEBINAR REPORT

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE ON ILLEGAL MINING

***THEME: "NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF ILLEGAL MINING IN GHANA:
IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES, HEALTH, AND POLICY"***

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Transforming Dialogue into Tangible Action for Sustainable Governance and
Environmental Restoration.

COMPREHENSIVE WEBINAR REPORT: THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE ON
ILLEGAL MINING



I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Institute of Governance, Ethics and Religion, Africa (IGER-AFRICA.ORG) extends its deepest gratitude to all who contributed to the success and profound impact of the two-day Environmental Conference on Illegal Mining.

Our sincerest appreciation goes to our esteemed Guest Speakers—Reverend Professor Paul Frimpong-Manso, Dr. Charles Sagoe-Moses, Dr. George Manful, Professor P.L.O. Lumumba, Lawyer Awula Serwah, Professor Ellis Owusu-Dabo, and Dr. Engineer Alex Kofi Appiah—for sharing their unparalleled expertise, moral conviction, and actionable solutions that elevated the quality of the discourse.

We thank our dedicated Hosts and Moderators, Genevieve Bucks, Elvis Washington Agyimanku, Pastor Manuel, and Pastor Dennis Nii Okine, whose guidance ensured the smooth and spirited flow of discussions.

A special note of thanks is reserved for all Participants, including policymakers, health professionals, traditional leaders, and civil society advocates. Your engagement energized this platform and demonstrated a strong commitment to being proactive citizens. We specifically acknowledge the active participation of the students from the UDS Nyankpala Campus, who embody the future of this movement.

To the whole administration of IGER-Africa, your hardwork and sleepless nights made this webinar a success and we hope that the next step will be towards making Ghana a better place for future generations.

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1.0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recent tensions observed within Ghana's religious and social fabric—specifically the friction between various faith communities—should not be viewed as isolated incidents. As noted by the IGER-Africa leadership, these are a "test of the waters." History shows in Rwanda, Sudan, and Nigeria that social collapse begins gradually. When environmental resources are destroyed, the resulting poverty acts as a catalyst for ethnic and religious conflict. Our intervention is not just about mining; it is about national security and the preservation of inter-faith harmony.

1.2. Brief Overview of the Webinar

The two-day Environmental Conference, organized by the Institute of Governance, Ethics and Religion, Africa (IGER-AFRICA.ORG), addressed the critical issue of illegal, irresponsible, and reckless mining (Galamsey).

- Theme: "Navigating the Challenges of Illegal Mining in Ghana: Impact on Individuals, Communities, Health, and Policy."
- Dates: December 5th and 6th, 2025.
- Venue: via Zoom
- Objective: To address illegal mining as one of the most urgent environmental and public health crises confronting Ghana today.
- Key Speakers: Included experts in Ethics/Religion, Health, Environment/Sustainability, Governance/Law, and Technology/Youth Solutions.

1.2. Key Highlights and Takeaways

The conference declared the crisis a moral summons, a public health emergency, and an existential threat.

- Systemic Failure: Existing PNDC Laws (153 and 218) are rendered ineffective due to weak enforcement, corruption, and the political shielding of criminals.
- Health Crisis: The contamination from mercury and cyanide threatens to cause impaired brain development in a generation of children.

- The Reckless Shift: The crisis encompasses not only illegal miners but also the reckless and irresponsible mining practices of licensed operators, particularly through unregulated quarrying and blasting.



1.3. Main Outcomes and Next Steps

The conference culminated in a collective resolution to form a sustained movement and advocacy group to defend the land.

- Actionable Reform: Advocating for explicit legal reform to strengthen environmental enforcement and regulate quarrying/blasting.
- Youth Mobilization: Empowering youth with technology (drones, IoT sensors) and technical skills for environmental monitoring and large-scale restoration.
- Restoration Projects: Initiating land and river restoration (backfilling pits, desilting) as viable employment opportunities.

1.4. Impact and Potential for Future Projects

The discussions outlined the potential for translating dialogue into tangible benefits for our people, specifically through funding job-creating reclamation work and technological monitoring systems.

2.0. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Context and Purpose of the Webinar

The Environmental Conference was initiated by IGER-AFRICA.ORG in response to what its President described as "one of the most pressing challenges facing our nations". The webinar's theme was "Navigating the Challenges of Illegal Mining in Ghana: Impact on Individuals, Communities, Health, and Policy".

2.2. Main Objectives and Impacts

The core objectives of the event were to:

- Address illegal mining as "one of the most urgent environmental and public health crises confronting Ghana today".
- Contribute profound expertise to discussions on policy reforms, community health impacts, and sustainable solutions.
- Foster dialogue that advances Pan-African ideals and translates into tangible benefits for our people.

The anticipated impact was to amplify the impact of collective efforts and send a strong signal of solidarity and leadership, encouraging collaborative action across sectors.

2.3. Target Audience and Attendees

The audience included a diverse mix essential for policy influence:

- Policymakers, health professionals, environmentalists, and civil society leaders from across the continent.
- Traditional leaders, advocates, and notably, students from the UDS Nyankpala Campus and other universities.

2.4. Relevance to the Organization's Goals and Objectives

The Institute of Governance, Ethics and Religion (IGER) Africa is dedicated to building a transforming Africa through ethical leadership, good governance, and interfaith harmony. Our focus extends to religious inter-dialogue, resolving religious differences, and promoting community development as a proactive measure to prevent the social

fragmentation seen in other nations like Rwanda, Sudan, and Nigeria. The event is central to IGER-AFRICA.ORG's mission to empower leaders and communities to embrace transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership. By confronting the environmental crisis and demanding accountability from authorities, the conference directly promoted the organization's vision for good governance and sustainable progress in Africa.



3.0. THE "CANKER" OF DESTRUCTION: MULTIFACETED IMPACTS

3.1. Global Comparison & Water Sovereignty

Ghana's current trajectory stands in stark contrast to global powers. Nations such as Israel, South Africa, and China possess vast mineral wealth but treat their water bodies as "sacred capital." In China, iconic rivers are immortalized on their national currency, a testament to the fact that water is the true "gold standard" of a civilization. In Ghana, the contamination of the White and Black Volta represents a suicidal path. The seeping of mercury and cyanide into these major arteries threatens not just drinking water, but the entire food chain, including the Tilapia industry and the hydroelectric stability of the nation. We are harming ourselves at a level that no external enemy could achieve.

3.2. Specific Health & Social Research Findings

- Drug Dependency: Miners increasingly rely on substances like Marijuana and Tramadol to sustain physical labor. Dosage often escalates from 5g to 20g as the body develops tolerance.
- Biological Aging: Research indicates that the toxicity of the environment and labor causes extreme premature aging; many 25-year-old miners possess the physical frailty of 60-year-olds.
- Food Safety Crisis: Heavy metals are specifically absorbed by root vegetables. Consumption of carrots, onions, turmeric, and ginger from Galamsey areas is identified as a primary source of mercury poisoning for urban populations.

3.2. The Human & Environmental Cost: A "Generational Cancer"

The conference panelists were unanimous in declaring the current situation a public health and ecological emergency.

1. Public Health: The "Silent Killing" of the Future

- Dr. Charles Sagoe-Moses (Health Specialist): He highlighted that communities are being burdened by Borrellosa (an infectious disease) and that adults are suffering from "debilitating skin and respiratory diseases" long before Galamsey even became a national headline.

- Mercury and Brain Development: Dr. Sagoe-Moses and Prof. Ellis Owusu-Dabo noted the terrifying reality of mercury contamination towards mothers and fetuses. Mercury used in mining is a "persistent bio-accumulative toxin" that crosses the placenta (Placental Breach), directly poisoning the fetus and contaminating breast milk, which threatens to cause brain impairment in an entire generation of Ghanaian children. The chemicals enter the food chain through water and fish, contaminating breast milk. This "generational poisoning" creates a cycle where the very source of life for an infant becomes a source of toxicity. This means a child is poisoned before they are even born, leading to congenital disabilities and impaired brain development.
- Dust and Air Poisoning: Mr. Paul Abrokwa (IGER President) the fine silica dust from blasting and crushing plants (associated with reckless quarrying) enters the lungs of the most vulnerable: pregnant women, children, and the elderly, leading to silicosis and chronic respiratory complications and diseases, while the shockwaves from unregulated blasting crack the foundations of community clinics and homes.

2. Ecological Collapse: Bleeding Forests and Dying Rivers

- Dr. George Manful (Environmentalist): He described the systematic destruction of the "biophysical environment": air, soil, and water. He emphasized that forest and aquatic ecosystems are losing their resilience and that the destruction of riverine zones is irreversible if action is not immediate. Mining doesn't just move soil; it "kills" it. The use of cyanide and mercury strips the land of its nutrients, making it impossible for future generations to farm the same land for food or cocoa.
- National Water Crisis: Elvis Washington Agyimanku (Moderator) revealed that over 60% of Ghana's major river bodies (including the Pra, Birim, and Ankobra) are now heavily contaminated. With turbidity levels reaching record highs, the Ghana Water Company is spending millions more on chemicals just to make the water barely usable, a cost ultimately passed down to the citizens. He warned that the Ghana Water Company Limited may be forced to shut down treatment plants because the turbidity and chemical levels are too high to manage.

3. The "Silent Disaster" of Reckless Quarrying

- Infrastructure Destruction: Unlike gold mining, which is often in remote areas, Paul Abrokwa highlighted that reckless quarrying and blasting are shattering communities. The shockwaves "crack the foundations of homes, schools, clinics, and water pipelines".
- Loss of Safe Water: Many community wells have dried up or been poisoned due to unregulated blasting and mining activities near residential zones.

3.3. The Global Mirror: Foreign And International Impacts

Illegal mining in Ghana is not an isolated event; it is part of a global pattern of resource exploitation that panelists compared to other international crises.

1. The "Global Mirror of Destruction"

- Prof. P.L.O. Lumumba (Keynote Speaker): He compared the Galamsey crisis to the oil drilling in Nigeria, specifically referencing the devastation of the Ogoni people and the martyrdom of Ken Saro-Wiwa. He noted that similar "deaths and mayhem" are occurring in the Democratic Republic of Congo due to unregulated mineral extraction. Lumumba's comparison was backed with a warning that if the "canker" of political shielding and corruption isn't "conquered," Ghana will become a graveyard of resources where the "criminals in suits" prosper while the children suffer.
- Capital Flight: Professor P.L.O. Lumumba and other speakers addressed the global financial aspect, where they noted that while the land is destroyed, the wealth is stolen. Foreign-backed syndicates use "mercenary miners" to extract gold, which is then smuggled out through illicit channels, leaving Ghana with the environmental debt and zero tax revenue.

2. Threat to International Trade (Cocoa Export)

- The contamination of soil with mercury and cyanide is an "existential threat" to Ghana's cocoa industry. Awula Serwah (Eco-Conscious Citizens) and others noted that if international buyers detect traces of heavy metals in Ghanaian cocoa beans, the country faces a total export ban, which would collapse the economy.

3.4. Summary Of Panelists' "Moral Summons"

- Rev. Prof. Paul Frimpong-Manso: He categorized the crisis as the "bondage of corruption" and a "mess of greed." He argued that the destruction of creation is a sin and that the "political shielding" of these criminals is what allows this global and local cancer to grow.



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4.0. RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATIONS

Following the national outcry and the "moral summons" issued by civil society, the Government of Ghana and the Judiciary have intensified efforts to prohibit illegal mining (Galamsey) and IGER-Africa commend these initiatives from the national level.

4.1. Legislative and Executive Prohibitions

- Revocation of L.I. 2462 (November 2024): In a landmark move, the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Hon. Armah Kofi Buah, laid before Parliament the Environmental Protection (Mining in Forest Reserves) (Revocation) Regulations, 2024. This effectively revoked L.I. 2462, which had previously allowed for mining in globally significant biodiversity areas (GSBAs).
- State of Emergency Requests (Ongoing 2025): The conference highlighted a sustained campaign for a targeted "State of Emergency" in mining-affected zones. Awula Serwah (Eco-Conscious Citizens) noted that advocacy for this intensified in the weeks leading up to December 2025 to compel faster action against "high players" involved in reckless mining.

4.2. Judicial Strengthening: Specialized "Mining Courts"

To address the "loophole factory" identified by conference speakers, the Judiciary, under the leadership of Chief Justice Gertrude Torkornoo, has taken the following steps:

- Establishment of Specialized Courts (October 2024): The Chief Justice designated fourteen (14) specialized courts, including seven (7) High Courts and seven (7) Circuit Courts, across the country to deal exclusively with mining-related offenses.
- Locations of Specialized Courts: These courts were strategically established in high-impact regions:
- Eastern Region: Koforidua.
- Western Region: Sekondi and Tarkwa.
- Ashanti Region: Kumasi.
- Greater Accra: Accra (specifically for high-profile cases involving "criminals in suits").

- Purpose: These courts aim to eliminate delays in the prosecution of illegal miners and ensure that PNDC Law 153 and 218 violations receive immediate judicial attention, bypassing the standard civil court backlog.

4.3. Military-Led Operational Crackdowns

- Operation Halt (Re-Launch Oct/Nov 2024): A renewed phase of Operation Halt was deployed to major river bodies and forest reserves.
- Focus Areas: The operations focused on the Birim, Pra, and Ankobra Rivers, which have seen turbidity levels rise to record highs.
- Implementation Details: Led by the Ghana Armed Forces, the task force has been destroying "Changfans" and heavy machinery found within 100 meters of water bodies. Speakers noted a specific incident near Farmer's Day 2024 where two major excavators were seized after reports of river poisoning.

5.0. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

5.1. Main Topics Discussed (Integrated)

| Day | Focus | Speaker(s) | Expertise/Field |
|-------|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Day 1 | Ethical and Moral Dimension | Rev. Prof. Dr. Paul Frimpong-Manso | Religion, Governance, and Ethics |
| | Health Impact and Crisis | Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses | Science, Technology, and Health |
| | Environmental Degradation and Restoration | Dr. George Manful | Environment and Sustainability |
| Day 2 | Governance, Law & Pan-African Approaches | Professor Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba | Governance and Law |
| | Public Health Crisis, Science & Solutions | Prof. Ellis Owusu-Dabo | Science, Technology, and Health |
| | Citizen Action & Policy Gaps | Lawyer Awula Serwah | Citizen Action and Policy |
| | Youth - Powered Technology and Alternative Livelihood | Dr. Engineer Alex Kofi Appiah | IT Engineering and Youth Coach |

5.2. Key Insights and Takeaways (Integrated)

1. Moral Crisis: Illegal mining is a "distorted continuation" of colonial-era exploitation; driven by greed has compromised traditional authorities where "profit is priced above people" and "short -term gifts are valued above long-term sustainability".
2. Policy Gaps: The four critical gaps in the existing law include: inadequate enforcement, limited community engagement, insufficient penalties, and endemic corruption.
3. The Silent Disaster: Unregulated quarrying and blasting, often disguised as construction, is causing widespread structural damage, air, and water pollution.

4. Health and Policy Nexus: The crisis is a public health emergency, and the laws are inadequate due to weak enforcement and the political shielding of criminals.
5. Environmental Toll: Over 70% of Ghana's major river bodies and more than 19,000 hectares of forest reserve have been damaged by contamination and destruction.

5.3. Notable Quotes or Moments

1. "Illegal mining... is tearing at the moral fiber... Poisoning our waters. Destroying our farmlands. And forming the conscience of our people."
2. "Laws without enforcement are not laws, they are decorations."
3. "A clean river is more valuable than a quick profit... and that a clear conscience before God is priceless."



6.0. PANEL DISCUSSION (INTEGRATED DIALOGUE)

6.1. Summary of the Dialogue

The discussions across both days established that the crisis is a multi-faceted failure of governance, law, and ethics. The core dialogue focused on the urgent necessity to move beyond blaming small-scale illegal miners to addressing systemic accountability failures and the reckless practices of licensed operators.

6.2. Key points and themes

1. Need for Transparency: The imperative to fight for transparency regarding which organizations are licensed to operate and whether they are complying with environmental protection guidelines. The need to explicitly reform PNDC laws 153 and 218 and any other law to be a regulation towards transparency.
2. Holistic Solutions: Solutions must be holistic, integrating ethical calls for repentance with pragmatic economic and environmental action, recognizing that ethical guidance is insufficient without alternative livelihoods, as low agricultural returns incentivize farmers to sell land.
3. Restoration Necessity: Environmental restoration is non-negotiable, requiring backfilling of pits, recontouring, and desiltation of heavy silted rivers.

6.3. Panelists' perspectives and insights

1. Dr. Appiah (Technology): Advocated for a regulated industry approach using "Licenses to Operate" that are subject to yearly renewal and compliance checks, and empowering youth with digital skills for monitoring and cybersecurity within the regulated sector.
2. Rev. Prof. Frimpong Manso (Ethics): Called for national repentance and a commitment to stewardship over greed.
3. Dr. George Manful: Stressed that ethical guidance is insufficient and called for concrete land restoration options.

6.4. Implications for future actions and projects

The insights point to immediate needs for projects focused on legal advocacy for reform, technology-based monitoring systems, and large-scale youth employment in land/river restoration.



7.0. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Q&A)

7.1. Summary of Q&A session

The sessions focused heavily on the lack of accountability among public officials and traditional leaders, as well as the economic drivers that incentivize illegal mining.

7.2. Notable questions and responses

1. Accountability of Leaders: A key area of interest was the lack of systems to hold public and traditional officials accountable for enabling illegal mining, which was promised as a major focus for the movement's next phase.
2. Economic Drivers: Low returns from agriculture were cited as the major reason farmers sell their lands to miners.
3. Long-term Cost: Participants noted that the short-term financial gains from Galamsey are temporary and will eventually be spent on treating "great, health risks" from chemical contamination.

7.3. Areas of interest and concern

The primary concerns were the pervasive institutional corruption, lack of transparency, the perceived political shielding of criminal activities, the lack of legal power for communities to halt destruction, the economic desperation driving farmers to sell their land, and the resultant generational health and financial costs.



7.4. The Economic Reality

The Math of Destruction: Cocoa vs. Gold There is a deceptive "Pseudo-Economy" driving land sales in mining areas. Landowners are often enticed to sell an acre of land for approximately 10,000 GHS. However, this is a catastrophic economic trade:

- The Opportunity Cost: A single acre can produce 10+ bags of cocoa annually for generations.
- The Permanent Loss: Once mined, the land is biologically dead.

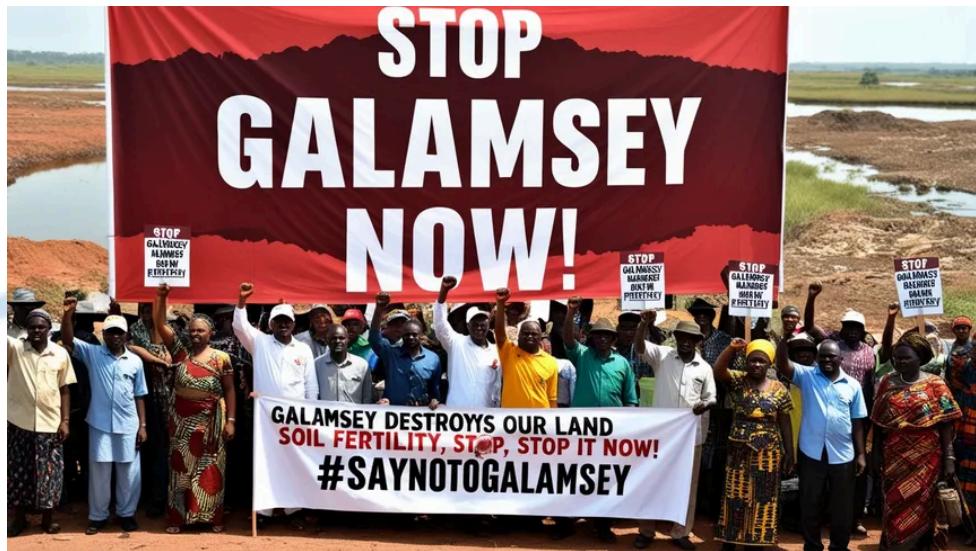
Selling heritage for a one-time "liquidity fix" is not an investment; it is the permanent liquidation of family and national capital. The youth are being enslaved by a system that pays them in "short-lived" money while leaving them with destroyed kidneys and a bankrupt future.



8.0. OTHER TOPICS TOUCHED ON

8.1. Additional themes or topics addressed

1. The Movement: The collective resolve to establish a "force of resistance" or "advocacy group" that will sustain the effort beyond the webinar.



2. Technological Solutions: The need for the Ghana Gold Board to implement traceability systems and the promotion of mercury-free gold processing tools ("Gold Catcher").
3. Community Education: The potential for a community-based education model where trained leaders educate their local populace (i.e. trained regional and district-level leaders to grassroot community people).



9.0. ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

9.1. Number of attendees

The platform was highly engaged, reaching approximately 120 participants on Day 1.

9.2. Engagement metrics

Engagement was high, with active Q&A participation and the youth cohort pledging to "change the narrative". Participants were asked to submit contact information to join the emerging movement and become an "agent of change".

9.3. Demographics and representation

The audience included a multi-generational, multi-sectoral mix, including students from the UDS Nyankpala Campus and other universities.

9.4. Summary of attendee feedback (Evaluation)

Attendees were asked to provide feedback and suggestions for future programs by filling out a Google Form/questionnaire/poll link shared in the chat box on both days. Even though some of the points raised were alarming, there were other suggestions that proved a better future for Ghana if proper arrangements and projects.

Below is a link to our questionnaire for the attendees suggestions and next line of action:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfU8Y7_JWEEm-atfMf7WkoYDoFBN9gyhU1eSF5wn8CyG1CU5BA/viewform

10.0. NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1. Requests For The Government

While the creation of specialized courts is a significant step, the conference participants, including Professor P.L.O. Lumumba and Dr. George Manful, advocate for the following "Next Level" implementations:

1. Funded Livelihood Transition (The Manful Proposal): Request the government to allocate specific funding to train at least 10,000 youth in green livelihood skills over the next 3 years. This provides a "way out" for those who currently view Galamsey as their only economic option.
2. Resource the specialized Courts: It is not enough to "designate" courts; the government must ensure these 14 specialized courts are equipped with independent environmental forensic experts to provide iron-clad evidence for prosecutions.
3. Mandatory Community Legal Standing: Legally empower Traditional Authorities (the "Forgotten Firewalls") to have the standing to sue mining companies directly in the new High Courts without needing prior approval from the Minerals Commission.
4. Technological Integration: Request the Ministry of Science and Technology to officially integrate the "Gold Catcher" (mercury-free technology) and IoT water sensors into the national mining regulatory framework to monitor compliance in real-time.

10.2. Follow-up actions or plans

1. Formalize Advocacy: Select and mobilize "change agents" (via the SPEAR initiative) and formally constitute the advocacy group.
2. Legal Advocacy: Launch a targeted campaign for specific amendments to the Mineral and Mining Act to strengthen enforcement and regulate the "silent disaster" of quarrying.
3. Livelihood Programs: Immediately seek funding to begin training youth in digital and technical skills and employ them in pilot reclamation and monitoring projects.

10.3. Specific requests for funding or support

Support is crucial for:

1. Environmental Restoration: Funding the labor and equipment required for desilting rivers and backfilling heavily degraded lands.
2. Youth Empowerment: Financing technical training (TVET) and the deployment of necessary monitoring technology (IoT, drones).
3. Legal & Advocacy Campaign: Securing resources for sustained legal action and public education.

10.4. How the discussions and outcomes will inform future projects

The outcomes will inform a clear, integrated project roadmap focused on governance reform, technological enforcement, Youth-driven environmental entrepreneurship , and economic alternatives, ensuring that the movement's efforts are structured, scalable, and focused on sustainable, tangible long-term benefits.

11.0. IMPACT AND POTENTIAL

11.1. Potential impact of the webinar's outcomes on the organization's goals

The core impact is the successful ignition of a sustained "force of resistance". The potential is to translate this dialogue into tangible benefits for our people by achieving genuine policy reform, restoring the environment, and securing a future built on integrity and accountability.

11.2. Opportunities for future projects and initiatives

1. Certified Environmental Monitoring Corps: Establishing a program or flagship project to train and equip youth as certified environmental monitors and blast impact reporters with use of drones and sensors to capture real-time mining activities.
2. Sustainable TVET Programs: Creating accredited skills training focused on supporting the regulated manufacturing and maintenance needs of an eco-friendly sector.



11.3. How funding or support can help achieve these goals

Funding will resource the technology, training, and legal muscle required to empower the youth and communities to defend their land, ensuring their future is "not negotiable".

12.0. IGER AFRICA STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP: THE 'END GALAMSEY NOW' INITIATIVE

Based on the resolutions from the December 2025 conference, the organization is championing a multi-pillar support system that directly addresses the economic and social drivers of Galamsey.

1. The "Green Livelihood" Transition Projects

IGER-AFRICA recognizes that education without an economic alternative is insufficient. The organization is developing projects to transition former miners into sustainable sectors:

- Environmental Restoration Corps: Rather than just stopping mining, the organization is advocating for the employment of former miners in large-scale land and river reclamation. This includes backfilling pits and desilting rivers, transforming the "destruction of the land" into a "job for the land".
- Sustainable Agriculture & "Greening" Projects: Replicating the success of the historical cocoa scholarship model, IGER-AFRICA is exploring partnerships to provide vocational training in modern agro-processing and eco-friendly farming. This ensures that the soil, once poisoned, is restored to provide long-term financial support for families.
- TVET and Startup Setup Funds: Through the initiatives proposed by Dr. Engineer Alex Kofi Appiah, the organization is focusing on digital skills (coding, cybersecurity) and technical vocational training (TVET) to support the regulated manufacturing sector. The goal is to provide "start-up kits" and seed funding for youth who commit to exiting illegal sites.

2. Education and Awareness: "Galamsey as a Cancer"

To shift the mindset that illegal mining is a "means of survival," IGER-AFRICA is launching a grassroots educational model:

- The "Moral Summons" Campaign: Led by religious and traditional leaders, this campaign frames illegal mining not as a job, but as a "silent disaster" that destroys the health of the community's children.

- Community-Led Sensitization: Using the proposed model where district and regional leaders are trained to educate their own people, the organization aims to make the long-term health and financial costs (mercury poisoning and land loss) more visible than the short-term cash gains.
- Use mega billboards to present visual parallels: Showing the reality of malformed babies and destroyed rivers on one side, contrasted with healthy cocoa crops, clean water, and children in school on the other. This psychological tool forces the community to confront the future consequences of current actions.

3. Youth Advocacy: The "SPEAR" Initiative

The youth are the most significant stakeholders in this fight. IGER-AFRICA is formalizing a Youth Advocacy Group to stand as a "force of resistance":

- Change Agents: The organization is using the SPEAR initiative to select and mobilize youth leaders (including students from campuses like UDS Yangkpala) to monitor their local environments and advocate for policy implementation at the district level.
- Digital Monitoring: Empowering youth to use drones and IoT sensors to act as "Environmental Watchdogs," ensuring that the new High Courts have the data they need to prosecute offenders.

4. Stakeholder Integration (Chiefs, Clergy, and Parliament)

IGER-AFRICA acts as a bridge between the community and the state:

- The "Forgotten Firewalls": The organization is working to re-empower Chiefs and Religious Leaders to take a stand against "short-term gifts" from miners.
- Policy Advocacy in Parliament: By providing technical reports and evidence from their conferences, IGER-AFRICA is lobbying Parliament to close the "four critical gaps" in existing laws and to ensure the 14 new specialized courts are fully resourced.

5. Global Funding and Strategic Partnerships

To resource these ambitious projects, IGER-AFRICA is actively seeking:

- Global Environmental Funds: Partnering with international agencies interested in climate change, carbon credits, and water security to fund large-scale restoration.
- Media and Corporate Partnerships: Collaborating with media houses to sustain the "End Galamsey" narrative and with ethical corporations to provide "traceable" gold market pathways.
- Government Grants: Seeking to manage government-funded reclamation projects as an independent, transparent private partner.

By providing this integrated support structure, IGER-AFRICA.ORG is ensuring that the "End Galamsey" agenda is not just a prohibition, but a pathway to a more prosperous and ethical future for all Ghanaians.



13.0. CONCLUSION

13.1. THE Jema MODEL: A CASE STUDY IN COMMUNITY SOVEREIGNTY

1. Background and Leadership

The Jema community serves as a successful case study in transforming the Galamsey narrative through Servant Leadership. The transition was pioneered by leadership that prioritized the long-term survival of the land over short-term financial inducements. By convincing the Chief and elders to reject bribes from miners, the community established a moral foundation for environmental protection.

2. Strategic Legal Framework (The Written Bylaw)

To move beyond fragile oral traditions, Jema formalized their commitment into written Bylaws. This document was signed by all stakeholders, including:

- Traditional Chiefs and Landowners.
- Youth and Women's groups.
- Representations of various farming sectors.

To ensure national recognition and enforcement, the Bylaw was distributed to the President of the Republic, the Social Welfare Department, and local Police Inspectors. This created a "no-respecter-of-persons" legal environment where even community elders are held accountable in court if they attempt to incite illegal mining.

3. Economic Sustainability and Branding

Jema replaced illegal mining with a sustainable corporate structure:

- Employment: A pilot project employs local youth for 4-5 hours daily, providing a stipend of 600 GHS while allowing them time to manage their own farms.
- Scientific Validation: The community collaborated with the CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research) to test their water bodies. Dr. Asante's report confirmed that Jema's waters are free of chemical components like mercury and cyanide.

- The Jema Brand: This scientific "clean" status has turned Jema crops into a high-demand brand in cities like Accra, providing farmers with a long-term, lucrative alternative to the "short-lived" money of Galamsey.

In conclusion, the Jema Model demonstrates that the fight against Galamsey is won through implementation, not just policy. The Jema community has again proven that the 'Galamsey Canker' is a choice, not a destiny. By combining documented local laws, rigorous scientific testing, and the creation of an "Organic Brand," Jema has successfully protected its rivers and its future. This model serves as the primary recommendation for IGER-Africa in its quest to promote ethical governance and community development across the continent.



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ANNEX: ATTACHMENTS AND SUPPORTING RESOURCES

Annex A: Official Program Outline

| DAY 1 — FRIDAY, 5th DECEMBER 2025 | | |
|---|---|--|
| Theme: Origins, Impacts, Ethics & Sustainability of Illegal Mining | | |
| Time | Activity | Responsibility |
| 15:00–15:05 GMT/ 16:00–16:05 CET/ 18:00–18:05 EAT | Welcoming Participants, Official Opening & Prayer | Zoom Host Moderator • Ps. Manuel |
| 15:05–15:10 GMT/ 16:05–16:10 CET/ 18:05–18:10 EAT | Opening Remarks | Founder & President, Paul Abrokwa • Brief overview of webinar goals & expected outcomes |
| 15:10 –15:15 GMT/ 16:10–16:15 CET/ 18:10–18:15 EAT | Introduction of Speakers for Day 1 | Moderator • Brief biography of our Speakers for the day |
| 15:15 –15:20 GMT/ 16:15–16:20 CET/ 18:15–18:20 EAT | BREAKOUT SESSION | |
| 15:20 –15:50 GMT/ 16:20–16:50 CET/ 18:20–18:50 EAT (30 mins) | Keynote: Ethical, Religious & Moral Dimensions of Illegal Mining | Prof. Frimpong Manso |
| GUEST SPEAKERS – THEMATIC SESSION | | |
| 15:50–16:20 GMT/ 16:50–17:20 CET/ 18:50–19:20 EAT (30 mins) | Speaker 1: Health Impacts of Illegal Mining & Tech Solutions for Monitoring | Dr. Charles Sagoe-Moses |
| 16:20–16:50 GMT/ 17:20–17:50 CET/ | Speaker 2: Environmental Degradation, Sustainability & Restoration Pathways | Dr. George Manful |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| 19:20–19:50 EAT (30 mins) | | |
| 16:50–17:35 GMT/ 17:50–18:35 CET/ 19:50–20:35 EAT (45 mins) | Interactive Discussion & Q&A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open forum with all three speakers Moderator-led questions and audience engagement |
| 17:35–17:45 GMT/ 18:35–18:45 CET/ 19:35–20:45 EAT (10 mins) | Summary Of Day 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator's synthesis of Day 1 Key lessons, policy notes & takeaways |
| 17:45–18:00 GMT/ 18:45–19:00 CET/ 20:45–21:00 EAT | Announcements, Presentation of Citation to Speakers & Closing for Day 1 | Administrator and Gen. Secretary, Bridget Ntow |

DAY 2 — SATURDAY, 6th DECEMBER 2025

Theme: Governance, Policy, Traditional Leadership & Youth-Tech Solutions

| Time | Activity | Responsibility |
|--|---|---|
| 15:00 –15:05 GMT/ 16:00–16:05 CET/ 18:00–18:05 EAT | Welcoming Participants, Opening Prayer & Welcome Back & Recap of Day 1 | Zoom Host, Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ps. Manuel |
| 15:05–15:10 GMT/ 16:05–16:10 CET/ 18:05–18:10 EAT | Opening Remarks | Founder & President, Paul Abrokwa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief overview of webinar goals & expected outcomes |
| 15:10–15:15 GMT/ 16:10–16:15 CET/ 18:10–18:15 EAT | Introduction of Speakers for Day 2 | Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief biography of our Speakers for the day |
| 15:15 –15:20 GMT/ 16:15–16:20 CET/ 18:15–18:20 EAT | BREAKOUT SESSION | BREAKOUT SESSION |
| 15:20–15:50 GMT/ 16:20–16:50 CET/ 18:20–18:50 EAT (30 mins) | Keynote Address: Governance, Law & Pan-African Approaches to Combating Illegal Mining | PLO Lumumba |

| GUEST SPEAKERS – THEMATIC SESSION | | |
|--|--|---|
| 15:50–16:20 GMT/ 16:50–17:20 CET/ 18:50–19:20 EAT (30 mins) | Speaker 1: Citizen Action, Environmental Policy Gaps, and Sustainable Resource Management | Awula Serwah |
| 16:20–16:50 GMT/ 17:20–17:50 CET/ 19:20–19:50 EAT (30 mins) | Speaker 2: Public Health Crisis, Science & Policy-Driven Solutions to Galamsey | Prof. Ellis Owusu-Dabo |
| 16:50–17:10 GMT/ 17:50–18:10 CET/ 19:50–20:10 EAT (20 mins) | CLOSING SPECIAL ADDRESS: Technology, Youth Empowerment & Innovation as Pathways Out of the Galamsey Menace | Dr. Ing. Alex Kofi Appiah |
| 17:10–17:45 GMT/ 18:10–18:45 CET/ 20:10–20:45 EAT (35 mins) | Panel Discussion & Audience Q&A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-panel dialogue • Governance, culture, policy, youth, technology & sustainability perspectives • Audience questions |
| 17:45–17:55 GMT/ 18:45–18:55 CET/ 20:45–20:55 EAT (10 mins) | Official Closing Ceremony | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final remarks By PLO Lumumba • Vote of thanks By Administrator and Gen. Secretary, Bridget Ntow • Presentation of Citation By President, Paul Abrokwa |
| 17:5–18:00 GMT/ 18:55–19:00 CET/ 20:55–21:00 EAT | Closing Prayer | Ps. Dennis Nii Okine |

Annex B: List of Speakers and Key Personnel

A comprehensive list of all speakers and IGER-AFRICA.ORG leadership:

| DAY | SPEAKER | AREA OF EXPERTISE |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Friday, 5th December 2025 | Rev. Prof. Paul Frimpong-Manso | Religion, Governance, Ethics |
| | Dr. Charles Sagoe-Moses | Science, Technology, Health |
| | Dr. George Manful | Environment and Sustainability |
| Saturday, 6th December 2025 | Professor P.L.O. Lumumba | Governance/Law |
| | Lawyer Awula Serwah | Citizen Action/Policy |
| | Prof. Ellis Owusu-Dabo | Science, Technology, Health |
| | Dr. Engineer Alex Kofi Appiah | Technology, Youth Coach |

Key Personnel: Paul Abrokwa (Founder & President), Bridget Ntow (Director of Administrations and General Secretary), Pastor Manuel Gomes (Host/Opening Prayer), Pastor Dennis Nii Okine (Host/Closing Prayer).

Annex C: Presentation Materials

1. [!\[\]\(559fb2fe79c83577f3783e6649d94496_img.jpg\) AKA Galamsey \(1\).pdf](#)
2. [!\[\]\(4a5301cedacda701387182bcef3861e6_img.jpg\) Galamsey_Presentation_Enhanced v1 - 05-12-25.pdf](#)
3. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BXU6AG8L8QbukaXhk8lux-KeFbWZn9zB/view?usp=drivesdk>
4. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T3nViLdgW8QRrWa3qT3XTvYkHJIIDrQ1/view?usp=drivesdk>
5. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GL5OM1dmYPps2-VgYt19EitMRhfuWbdQ/view?usp=drivesdk>
6. <https://linkr.ee/EcoConsciousCitizens>
https://www.youtube.com/shorts/cO_DGsB4cTc

Annex D: Webinar Recordings and Access Links

1. https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/Pw4cQ74pKR9C_W6nudZbycPokSCKvYFvfvgnfQsZN5wjNsAsB_kOz-jeDBukRFY.MZJlreA93qn_w5UB?startTime=1765033408000

Passcode: 3zZR%TZe (Day 1 Zoom link)

2. https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/eSljLAUYvebsqYhHP_IM2JyEw4HCRUgiBZqR8QuO2_cgeF4UgxYCLsSvHheluvpi.NeNrplaRZvekXJIm?startTime=1764946860000

Passcode: %L2wPTi6 (Day 2 Zoom link)

3. <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1CCek3D8qR/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1D53y4C8Pb/> (Facebook live)



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Annex E: Attendee Feedback and Evaluation Summary

1. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfU8Y7_JWEEm-atfMf7WkoYDoFBN9gyhU1eSF5wn8CyG1CU5BA/viewform



Annex F: Call to Action and Follow-Up Contacts

1. https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575143107879&_rdc=1&_rdr#
2. <https://www.youtube.com/@IGERAFRICA>
3. <https://us06web.zoom.us/launch/chat/v2/eyJzaWQiOiJ3ZWJfc2NoXzZjMzQ0MGFI NzczNjQ0MjdhOGI4Yml3MjgzNzlkZjEzQGNvbmZlcmVuY2UueG1wcC56b29tLnVzIn0>

