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COGINTA
Building safer communities. Promoting social justice.

GOLD for GOOD

Inclusive growth
and stability through
responsible artisanal
small-scale mining in Ghana



3
MILLION €



18
MONTHS



EU
FUNDED
FOREIGN POLICY
INSTRUMENT



SAVANNAH REGION
OF GHANA



ARTISANAL MINING
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
SOCIAL COHESION



ARTISANAL MINING AT A TURNING POINT

Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) is a critical source of livelihoods in Ghana's Savannah Region, particularly for youth and women, as climate pressures increasingly undermine agricultural incomes. Rapid growth of the sector has, however, intensified pressures on land, water resources, and local governance systems, contributing to environmental degradation, regulatory gaps, and tensions between communities, miners, and authorities.

KEY ACTORS, SHARED CHALLENGES

Ghana has put in place ambitious reforms to strengthen ASM governance, environmental management, and responsible sourcing. However, translating national policies into effective local practice remains complex, particularly in remote areas. Enhancing coordination, building local capacity, and deepening community engagement are key opportunities to reinforce trust, improve compliance, and maximise the benefits of reform.

WHAT 'GOLD FOR GOOD' SETS OUT TO DO

GOLD FOR GOOD supports Ghana's ASM reform agenda by piloting an inclusive, practical model in the Savannah Region. The project strengthens local governance, helps miners formalise and meet GoldBod requirements, and promotes environmentally responsible land rehabilitation- unlocking ASM's potential for inclusive growth, environmental stewardship, and long-term stability.

IMPACT EFFECT

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Reduced structural vulnerabilities in Ghana's Savannah region

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

Improved security, economic and environmental governance of targeted Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining in Ghana's Savannah region

Output 1

STRENGTHENED COORDINATION AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITY OF SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL/ REGULATORY ACTORS FOR RESPONSIBLE ASM MANAGEMENT

Expected change

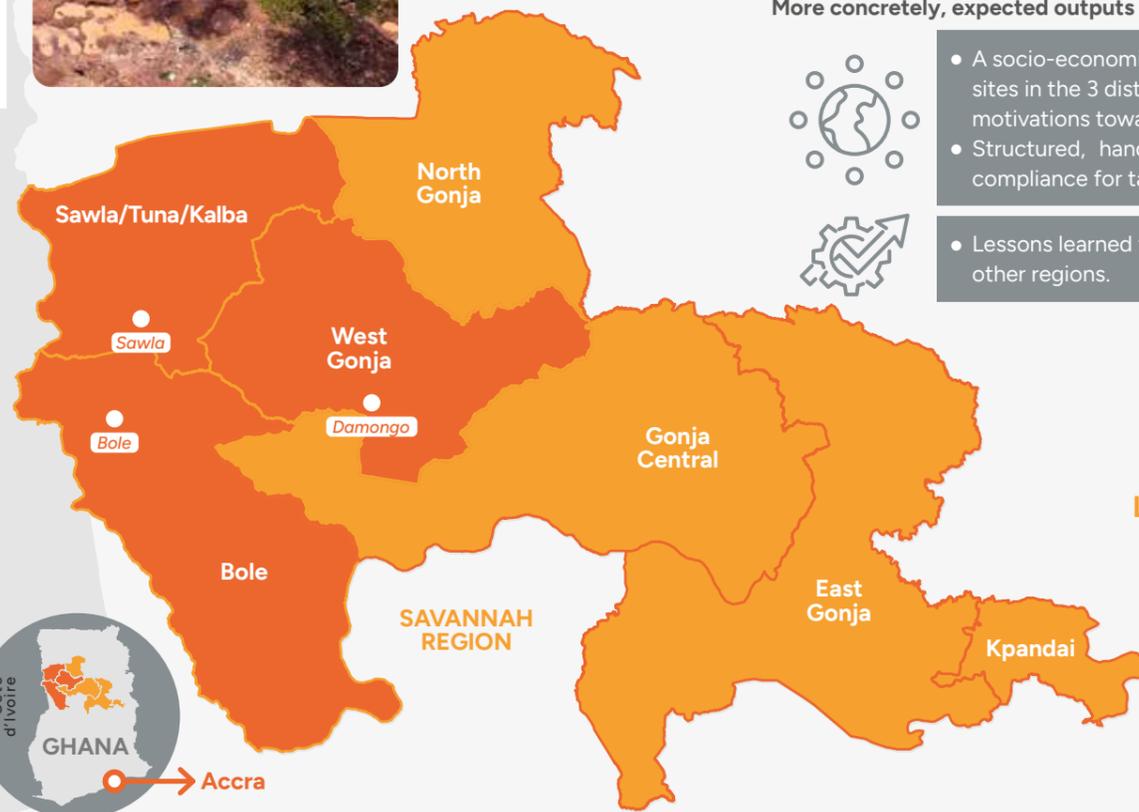
- ASM governance and enforcement regulation become more coordinated, accountable, and trusted, with strengthened operational capacities of local authorities and security providers.
- Communities actively contribute to conflict-sensitive oversight and compliance.
- Local security conditions become more conducive to responsible and environmentally sustainable ASM.

More concretely, expected outputs are

- A diagnostic and capacity assessment of security, conflict and border governance ecosystem surrounding ASM.
- Enhanced territorial control and operational readiness of the police, rangers, EPA, and immigration officers in ASM-affected and border districts.
- Strengthened investigative and coordination capacities to prevent and respond to ASM-related crimes, environmental offences, and human trafficking.

- 6 joint security and border control posts rehabilitated or constructed.
- Equipment provision to increase mobility and safe operations in remote terrain.

- Improved security presence and collaboration between enforcement agencies and communities, leading to safer, better regulated, and more accountable mining environments.



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- **Government:** Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Minerals Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana Gold Board, Precious Minerals Marketing Company, District Mining Committees.
- **Traditional authorities:** local chiefs and Tindanas (earth priests).
- **Security:** Ghana Police Service / community policing units.

- **Civil society:** Ghana National Association of Small-Scale Miners (GNASSM), Non-Governmental Organisations active in mining, environmental, and peacebuilding work.
- **Academia:** University of Mines and Technology (UMaT).
- **Private sector:** mining cooperatives, downstream buyers, and local/large-scale mining operators.



Output 2 STRENGTHENED GOLDBOD COMPLIANCE AND RESPONSIBLE SOURCING CAPACITIES OF ASM STAKEHOLDERS

The output focuses on two interlinked areas:

TRAINING AND SENSITISATION of ASM stakeholders — miners, cooperatives, women and youth groups, and local authorities — on GoldBod standards, verification procedures, and due diligence requirements



TECHNICAL ACCOMPANIMENT AND FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT to help selected miners and cooperatives meet compliance criteria, including documentation, record-keeping, environmental management, and traceability

Expected results

- Artisanal miners and cooperatives are informed, trained, and effectively supported to achieve measurable progress toward GoldBod standards.
- Responsible sourcing requirements become more accessible, equitable, attractive and trusted, contributing to increased participation of ASM actors in traceable gold value chains.
- Over time, compliance is perceived not merely as a regulatory obligation but as a viable and rewarding pathway to formalisation, improved livelihoods and ASM sector sustainability in the Savannah Region.

More concretely, expected outputs are



- A socio-economic and Geographic Information System (GIS)-based database of ASM sites in the 3 districts, including GoldBod compliance mapping and analysis of miners' motivations toward formalisation.
- Structured, hands-on accompaniment and measurable progress toward GoldBod compliance for targeted ASM operators and cooperatives.



- Lessons learned for scaling and institutionalisation of GoldBod compliance support in other regions.

Output 3

STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES AND MEANS OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS TO IMPLEMENT ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE LAND REHABILITATION IN ASM-AFFECTED AREAS

Expected change

- Pilot ASM-degraded sites in the Savannah Region are partially rehabilitated through mechanised and community-driven efforts, visibly improving the local environment and public confidence.
- Communities and local authorities gain practical restoration skills, environmental awareness and ownership of local rehabilitation processes.
- Tested models inform future land rehabilitation and sustainable mining policies.

More concretely, expected outputs are



- One district report and GIS based map on ecological and health risk assessments at ASM sites and "no-go" areas with traditional leaders and Tindanas.



- At least 4 sites (partially) restored and stabilised with active community participation.



COGINTA'S EXPERIENCE AND APPROACH

Through its partnership with the European Union, Coginta developed and implemented the EU-funded SECORCI programme in Tengrela, Côte d'Ivoire. This flagship initiative strengthened the governance of artisanal and small-scale gold mining in a context marked by environmental pressure and local security challenges.

Building on lessons from this engagement, Coginta addresses the underlying conditions that cause mining-related risks to escalate when tackled in isolation. By aligning governance, livelihoods, environmental management, and security practices, we help break cycles of violence, informality, and degradation around mining areas.



PROFESSIONALISATION AND PATHWAYS TO FORMALISATION

Supporting the professionalisation of artisanal miners, the creation and management of cooperatives, and accompaniment along pathways to formalisation that are realistic within national legal frameworks.



LONG-TERM COLLABORATION AND SYSTEM-BUILDING

Engaging beyond training or pilot phases to consolidate governance and environmental gains, and to address structural constraints such as access to finance, service provision, and routes to market.



LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY SECURITY

Strengthening local governance, dialogue mechanisms, and security governance around mining areas to reduce conflict, manage access and encroachment, and prevent escalation.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND LAND REHABILITATION

Addressing the environmental and health impacts of informal mining through land rehabilitation, watercourse protection, waste management, and the productive reuse of rehabilitated mining land, including support to alternative and complementary livelihoods.

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