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Press Release

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European Union launches project to improve sustainable mining to safeguard the environment and protect people

[14 May 2024, Kenyasi - Ahafo Region] – The European Union (EU) has launched the, “**Building Resilient and Active Communities in Extractive Landscapes in Ghana (BRACE)**”, project aimed at improving sustainable mining to safeguard the environment and protect individuals living in mining areas.

BRACE underscores EU’s strong commitment to fostering responsible resource extraction practices that prioritize environmental preservation and the well-being of local communities.

With EUR 1.718 million funding from the European Union, the BRACE project, implemented by a consortium of not-for-profit organisations (Wassa Association of Communities Affected by Mining (WACAM) and Nature and Development Foundation (NDF)) led by A Rocha Ghana, also aims to ensure adherence to human rights, transparency, and accountability in mineral governance by contributing to sustainable and equitable environmental management and good natural resource governance in Ghana.

The BRACE project targets a diverse array of stakeholders, including Community Based Organisations (CBOs), especially youth groups, women’s groups, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Traditional Authorities (TAs) in host mining communities, media partners, Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) Executive Committees (CECs) and its communities, partners from the extractive industry and mining communities.

“Mining is important for local jobs and revenues. But mining operations can be the cause of serious damage to local communities and the environment”, said Massimo Mina, Head of Cooperation in the EU Delegation to Ghana.

“A responsible mining sector is urgently needed and possible. We are ready to act with our partners to make mining better work for the people, and minimize environmental impacts. We want to open up ways for a more sustainable development of Ghana”, he added.

During the project launch, Dr Seth Appiah-Kubi, the National Director of A Rocha Ghana, reiterated the significance of acknowledging the diverse interests within our landscapes, spanning food and water security, sustainable forest management for ecosystem services, and climate resilience. He stressed the urgent necessity for a balanced mining framework that respects community rights to benefit from these various land uses.

Concluding the project overview presentation, Project Coordinator Daryl Bosu highlighted Ghana's exceptional opportunity to leverage the ongoing review of minerals and mining policy to prioritize social and environmental protections. He emphasized the importance of mainstreaming **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)** as the foundation of mineral governance in Ghana, particularly amidst the expansion of the extractive sector for transition minerals.

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About BRACE Project

The Building Resilient and Active Communities in Extractive Landscapes in Ghana (BRACE) Project is funded by the European Union with approximately EUR 1,718,860 and is set to span a period of three years. Concrete deliverables of the BRACE project include the establishment of a network of paralegals from the community, who will help identify issues and work with community members through facilitated legal support to resolve safeguard issues; creation of a Legal Access Fund to support community courtroom advocacy; the operation of an online Q&A portal to address social and environmental right issues associated with community mining, the implementation of an online monitoring platform to publish extractive sector environmental rights violations, and the establishment of a National CSO Platform on Mineral Governance.