

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOTICE OF CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

16th May 2024, Accra, Ghana. Recent developments resulting from the active actions of the Government of Ghana, which has led to unprecedented risk to convert Ghana's protected forests such as Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs) into logging and mining areas have compelled us to issue a formal notice of intent to pursue civil action against the Government of Ghana.

Our constituent team of CSOs include, A Rocha Ghana, Tropenbos Ghana, Civic Response, Nature and Development Foundation, and EcoCare Ghana. **We have taken this critical step in accordance with Section 19(1) of the State Proceedings Act, 1998 (Act 555), to fulfil our constitutional duty in safeguarding the natural environment, as enshrined in Article 41(k) of the 1992 Constitution.**

While acknowledging the Government's developmental objectives and the imperative need to utilize natural resources for national progress, we are of the conviction that such utilization must strictly adhere to legal frameworks outlined in the 1992 Constitution, the Timber Resources Management Act, 1998 (ACT 547) as amended, and the Timber Resources Management and Licensing Regulation, 2017 (LI 2254). Of particular concern is the recent declassification of **Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs)** within some forest reserves including the Subri River Forest Reserve and Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve, and the subsequent awarding of a Timber Utilization Contract to some logging Companies to operate in same.

We find this as a breach of due process and legal stipulations, therefore prompting the issuance of this notice of intent to commence legal proceedings should the Government fail to annul the aforementioned contracts.

The key issues of possible legal redress include:

- **The issuance of the Timber Utilization Contract without adherence to the competitive bidding process mandated by Regulation 12 of LI 2254.**
- **The absence of Parliamentary ratification, as required by Sections 5 and 9 of Act 547, rendering the contract legally void.**
- **A plea to restrain the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources and the Forestry Commission from engaging in similar transactions without proper Parliamentary ratification.**



In light of the foregoing, we urge the Government to reconsider its actions and engage constructively in resolving this matter in accordance with the rule of law and best practices in natural resource management.

We also hereby affirm our unwavering commitment to the sustainable management of Ghana's forest reserves and call upon all stakeholders to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, and environmental stewardship.

End

For further inquiries, please contact:

Daryl Bosu

Tel: 0202555727

Email: daryl.bosu@arocha.org

Obed Owusu-Addai

Tel: 0240355320

Email: obcd@ccocaicgkara.org