



**Request for Expression of Interest for Website Design & Management Services
UNDER
'Building Resilient and Active Communities in Extractive Landscapes in Ghana' (BRACE)**

Background

A Rocha Ghana, Wacam, and the Nature and Development Foundation are seeking expressions of interest from qualified web design firms or individuals to develop and host a website for the **Building Resilient and Active Communities in Extractive Landscapes in Ghana (BRACE)** project. This initiative is funded by the European Union and aims to empower communities affected by mining activities by enhancing their access to justice and information regarding their environmental and land rights.

Communities' rights to their lands, a healthy environment and natural resources are severely threatened by mining activities, and this threat grows by the day as Ghana's extractives sector takes precedent. Licences are granted without due diligence in socially and environmentally sensitive areas (farmlands, forests, and rivers¹, despite a prospecting ban for forests and mining ban for rivers). The 'UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights' visited communities living near largescale mining operations in 2022 where he witnessed their living conditions and heard their testimonials of losing their lands, farms and livelihoods to large-scale mining companies; communities surrounded by mine tailings and stagnant water; contamination of farmlands and water sources by mercury, zinc and arsenic; sicknesses (coughing, rashes, nose bleeding, fatigue, respiratory problems, cancer); inadequate compensation; and very limited benefits returning to communities². Affected communities are not able to access justice systems to seek redress due to the high costs³, and they also lack on information on their environment and land rights, and of the responsibilities of duty bearers in extractive sector development.

Needs of the BRACE partners

BRACE partners are looking for a web designer to design, create and host a website to support the project and its target groups. After creation, the partners will manage the website, so it should be relatively simple to update and maintain (e.g. WordPress or other appropriate host platforms).

¹ Source: Licences on the MinCom Repository: <https://miningrepository.mincom.gov.gh/license>

² End of Mission Statement by the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, Marcos A. Orellana, on his visit to Ghana, 30 November to 13 December 2022, Accra, 13 December 2022 <https://tinyurl.com/ytj638vt>

³ Asaah Sumaila Mohammed, Issaka Kanton Osumanu, and Clement Adamba (2023) Incidences of HR violations and practice of the voluntary principles on security and human rights in selected mining communities in Ghana. *Journal of Planning and Land Management*, 2(2), 50-61.

Scope of Work

The website

As part of a collection of activities aimed at addressing communities' challenges in accessing justice systems, knowledge on seeking redress, and accessing information on their rights, the BRACE project will establish a website with the following four key elements to support host mining communities and communities threatened by extractives development to claim their environmental and land rights:

1. A Q&A portal where project target groups (communities, CBOs, CSOs, women's groups, and especially the trained Community Paralegals) will be able to link up with qualified legal practitioners and ask questions about issues confronting their communities on environmental rights, land rights, and resource rights.
2. A database of legal practitioners ready to act pro bono for community environmental rights cases, and to answer questions asked through the Q&A portal. Newly trained lawyers with an interest in environmental rights may gain useful experience through this.
3. A platform to collate and share cases of environmental rights violations by mining companies in Ghana to track and expose the names and the violations of the companies, and to publish follow up on how government institutions and other actors are ensuring redress. This will be similar to the trackers published by the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre⁴ and will provide a compilation of credible verified evidence for rights holders and target groups to use in advocacy, including Community Courtroom Advocacy, to claim communities' rights. It will also provide a resource for ARG to use in its next report to the Ghana UPR (2028).
4. A library of documents and links to information on human rights and environment, international conventions and protocols protecting human rights to land, FPIC, and a healthy environment⁵, reports of relevant UN Special Rapporteurs, government's Business and HR Action Plan, Ghana's extractive and environmental legislation, BRACE project Policy Briefs and training manuals, reports and lessons sharing documents, and more. These will provide a central repository of information resources for communities, CSOs/CBOs and Community Paralegals affected by or working on extractives, environmental rights, environmental damage, and natural resource governance.

⁴ Examples are: Transition Minerals <https://tinyurl.com/ms4h47y8> and China <https://tinyurl.com/yty3ubk3>

⁵ Examples: the [UN Framework Principles on Human Rights and the Environment](#), the UN Resolution affirming [The human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment](#) (2021), [Human Rights and Biodiversity](#)

Website design details

Q&A Portal: This should have front-facing access with a button where communities, paralegals, CSOs, and CBOs can send their questions to the legal practitioners for answering. It could also be designed as a chat for use when a legal practitioner is immediately available, combined with a question message for answering later if nobody is immediately available.

It also needs a space for adding FAQs so that the Q&As can be posted online for others to read, and must be edited carefully beforehand to ensure no identifiable information (person, community etc) is published.

Database of legal practitioners: Access to this service must be public, but the database containing the details of the legal practitioners must be private and very well protected. The database will need a contact button for communities, paralegals, CSOs, CBOs and others to easily request for pro bono support. It must be as secure as possible from hacking.

Platform to collate rights violations by mining companies: This platform will accept and store both verified and unverified reports from communities, CBOs, CSOs, media and others of extractive company violations of environment, natural resources, lands, and human rights. The verified reports will be in a front-facing platform, with summary statistics (similar to the examples of the Business and HR Centre⁶) and a backwards-facing part to collect and store unpublished evidence until it has been verified, when it will also be published (if safe). The reports will be analysed and data added to a spreadsheet, with the stats shared on the page as well as the Excel file (again, similar to the examples).

Library: This space should have a number of categories for information and will contain the documents (if these are not already available online) and links to online resources that will support communities, CSOs, CBOs and media to access information on their environmental rights. The BRACE partners will a

Security and Maintenance: Security Ensuring the security of the BRACE project website is paramount given the sensitive nature of the data it will handle. The website will host a database of legal practitioners, a platform for reporting rights violations, and a repository of important documents, all of which need to be protected against unauthorized access, data breaches, and other cyber threats.

Ongoing maintenance is crucial to ensure the website remains functional, secure, and up-to-date. The consultant will therefore be required to provide training to BRACE partners on website management and also offer ongoing technical support after the launch of the website.

⁶ E.g. Business and HR Centre's Transition Minerals <https://tinyurl.com/ms4h47y8> and on China <https://tinyurl.com/yty3ubk3>



Submission Requirements

Interested firms or individuals are requested to submit the following:

1. **Cover Letter:** A brief statement of interest and summary of budget for the assignment
2. **Company Profile:** Including relevant experience, particularly in similar projects.
3. **Technical Proposal:** Detailing the approach to the project, timeline, and key deliverables.
4. **Financial Proposal:** Including a detailed budget breakdown.
5. **Portfolio:** Examples of previous work relevant to this project.
6. **Team Composition:** Resumes of key personnel who will be involved in the project.

Submission Instructions

All expressions of interest must be submitted electronically to Daryl Bosu Email:

daryl.bosu@arocha.org and an copy to Email: ghana@arocha.org by the **2nd of August 2024**