



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12 June 2026

**STATEMENT ON THE ATTACK ON FORESTRY COMMISSION PERSONNEL
AND THE DESTRUCTION OF STATE PROPERTY AT BABATOKUMA**

A Rocha Ghana unequivocally condemns the recent attack on staff of the Forestry Commission and the destruction of the timber checkpoint staff accommodation at Babatokuma in the Kintampo District of the Bono East Region.

The violent incident, which occurred on Tuesday, 9 June 2026, endangered lives and destroyed public property. Such actions are unacceptable under any circumstances. The attack could easily have led to the loss of lives. These acts not only jeopardise the safety of Forestry Commission personnel and others working to protect Ghana's forests and natural resources, but also undermine the rule of law and the collective national effort to safeguard our environment for present and future generations.

This is not the first time that staff of the Forestry Commission has come under attack. This incident is part of a broader and deeply concerning pattern of attacks, threats, and intimidation directed at those working to protect Ghana's forests, wildlife, and other natural resources. Forestry Commission personnel, community monitors, and other frontline conservation actors often operate in challenging and high-risk environments, yet too often face violence for carrying out their lawful duties. In several instances, such attacks have not resulted in visible accountability or justice, raising serious concerns about impunity and the protection of those who serve in the public interest.

The recurrence of these incidents demands urgent national attention. When attacks against frontline personnel go unpunished or unresolved, they embolden perpetrators, weaken the enforcement of environmental laws, and erode public confidence in the administration of justice.

Those who put their lives on the line to protect Ghana's forests and natural resources should not have to do so under the constant threat of violence. Failure to protect them not only endangers their lives but also undermines national efforts to combat illegal logging, illegal mining, wildlife crime, and other environmental offences that continue to threaten Ghana's biodiversity and ecological security.

The protection and sustainable management of our natural resources are matters of national importance. The institutions and individuals entrusted with enforcing environmental laws and safeguarding our natural heritage must be able to carry out their responsibilities safely and without fear of intimidation, violence, or attack.

In light of this incident, we call for the following:

1. A swift, thorough, independent, and impartial investigation by the Ghana Police Service and all relevant law enforcement agencies, with the prompt prosecution of all persons found responsible in accordance with the laws of Ghana.
2. Immediate measures to strengthen the safety and security of Forestry Commission personnel and all others engaged in protecting Ghana's natural resources, particularly in high-risk operational areas.
3. Firm and sustained action to prevent and deter attacks, threats, and acts of intimidation against officers, community monitors, and all individuals and institutions engaged in environmental protection and law enforcement.
4. Greater transparency and accountability in the handling of this case and other similar incidents, including regular public updates on the progress of investigations and prosecutions to reinforce confidence in the administration of justice.
5. Enhanced inter-agency collaboration and sustained investment in environmental law enforcement to combat illegal logging, illegal mining, wildlife crime, and other environmental offences that continue to threaten Ghana's natural heritage and place frontline personnel at risk.

At a time when Ghana continues to face significant environmental challenges, it is imperative that government institutions, civil society organisations, traditional authorities, local communities, and all citizens work together through lawful and peaceful means to protect our shared natural resources.

The protection of Ghana's forests depends not only on sound policies but also on the courage and safety of the people entrusted with enforcing them. An attack on Forestry Commission personnel or any individual working to protect Ghana's natural heritage is an attack on the rule of law and on our shared commitment to safeguarding the country's future. We call on all Ghanaians to reject violence, uphold the law, and support those working tirelessly to protect our forests and natural resources for present and future generations.

Signed:
A Rocha Ghana

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For more Information, Please Contact

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