REPORT ON THE CIVIC RESPONSE MEDIA TRAINING ON NATURAL RESOURCES GOVERNANCE

MEDIA TRAINING ON NATURAL RESOURCES GOVERNANCE
9th – 21st September, 2019
Venue: AKNAC HOTEL, Accra

Funded by:

MARY AMA KUDOM-AGYEMANG
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The author would like to acknowledge Civic Response, which through its partnership with Fern, organised the media training on natural resources governance that brought together journalists and media workers from around the country. The purpose was to introduce them to the natural resources sector and build their capacity to report appropriately on the sector. She is grateful to Albert Katako, Elvis Oppong-Mensah and Jemima Opare-Henaku for facilitating the process and also to Kafui Denkabe (Mrs) and Mr. John Azumah Kebir for working behind the scenes to get the programme done. Her special thanks also goes to Nana Tawiah, administrator of the Taylor Crabbe Initiative, and the Chairman of the Public Interest and Accountability Committee, Dr. Steve Manteaw for contributing to the success of the training programme. The author’s final thanks goes to the 30 journalists from both state and private media houses across the nation who participated in the training. They were from the Daily Graphic, Ghanaian Times, Ghana News Agency, GBC Radio News, TV3, ASH TV, Citi FM, Multimedia, Public Agenda, Radio Gold Online, First Digital TV, Xinhus/CNC TV, Kuul FM, Filler FM, New Crusading Guide and Radio 360/Empire FM.

Mary Ama Kudom-Agyemang
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<th>Acronyms</th>
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<tr>
<td>APRM</td>
<td>African Peer Review Mechanism</td>
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<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
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<td>CEOs</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officers</td>
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<td>CITES</td>
<td>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species</td>
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<td>EITI</td>
<td>Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative</td>
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<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation</td>
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<td>FDI</td>
<td>Foreign Direct Investment</td>
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<td>FLEGT</td>
<td>Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade</td>
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<td>FOI</td>
<td>Freedom of Information</td>
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<td>GBC</td>
<td>Ghana Broadcasting Corporation</td>
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<td>GHF</td>
<td>Ghana Heritage Fund</td>
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<td>GNA</td>
<td>Ghana News Agency</td>
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<td>GNPC</td>
<td>Ghana National Petroleum Corporation</td>
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<td>GSF</td>
<td>Ghana Stabilization Fund</td>
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<td>IAC</td>
<td>Investment Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>IIED</td>
<td>International Institute for Environment and Development</td>
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<td>ISODEC</td>
<td>Integrated Social Development Centre</td>
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<td>LPG</td>
<td>Liquefied Petroleum Gas</td>
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<td>MAP</td>
<td>Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme</td>
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<td>NDC</td>
<td>National Democratic Congress</td>
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<td>NDPC</td>
<td>National Development Planning Commission</td>
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<td>NEPAD</td>
<td>New Partnership for Africa’s Development</td>
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<td>NPP</td>
<td>National Patriotic Party</td>
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<td>NRE</td>
<td>Natural Resources and Environment</td>
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<td>OBI</td>
<td>Open Budget Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIAC</td>
<td>Public Interest and Accountability Committee</td>
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<td>PURC</td>
<td>Public Utilities Regulatory Commission</td>
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<td>PWYP</td>
<td>Publish What You Pay</td>
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<td>VPA</td>
<td>Voluntary Partnership Agreement</td>
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<td>WB/IMF</td>
<td>World Bank and International Monetary Fund</td>
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<td>WRI</td>
<td>Water Resources Institute</td>
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Forward

Corruption has become pervasive in Ghana, especially in the natural resource extraction sector. Regulatory agencies have become too weak to enforce laws, expose and punish individuals and companies involved in illegal natural resource exploitation. Work by investigative journalists have shown a number of state institutions including the Judiciary accused of corruption which has also influenced its enforcement roles in stopping illegalities or doing little to avert it.

Illegal surface mining has become a plague destroying forests, water bodies, agricultural lands and cocoa farms across large areas of the High Forest Zones in Ghana and the fragile savannah ecosystem. The Water Research Institute (WRI) predicts that should this situation persist, Ghana faces a looming water crisis and would have to resort to imported water. WRI further projects that “there would be no treatable water source from either surface or underground by 2030” should this continue.

There have been several reported cases of illegal exploitation of natural resources in the mining and forestry sector, as well as encroachment of farmers into forest reserves. Truckloads of illegal timber have been arrested by a combined force of district level Forestry Commission staff and the Ghana Police but had to be set free as a result of “orders from above.”

There are efforts to address illegal logging through the development of a legality licensing scheme as part of the EU supported Voluntary Partnership Agreement. We are hopeful that when the VPA implementation comes into force, all the loopholes for illegal logging and trade would be plugged. We are also hoping that lessons and experiences from the VPA, especially the use of multi-stakeholder dialogue processes in decision making, monitoring and law enforcement will be applied across all the sectors.

In the meantime, we do need a vibrant media all over the country who are very knowledgeable about the natural resource sector laws and policies and with keen interest and passion to expose illegalities with concrete evidence that can be used for prosecution of law breakers. It is with this background that Civic Response, with funding from Fern, through the Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) programme organised this training for a cross section of media personnel from across the country to develop a team of media personnel who would be interested in using the knowledge and skills to improve investigative journalism and media reportage in the natural resource environment and governance sector. I believe this is what we need to fight political influence in illegal natural resource exploitation.

Albert Katako, Head of Programmes, Civic Response.
Executive Summary

Ghana is endowed with a lot of natural resources comprising land, forestry and wildlife resources, water, minerals, oil and gas, which are fundamental to the well-being and future of Ghanaians. The country’s major foreign exchange earnings are from natural resources related exports namely timber, cocoa, minerals and oil.

Management of these natural resources are carried out by various public stakeholder institutions. But the mode of exploitation is depleting the resources at worrisome rates, especially for the renewable resources and if care is not taken, the country will lose all of these gifts of nature. Even more worrisome is that, sections of the society especially those who depend directly on the resources, are often left impoverished, because, until recently, their rights were totally ignored. Global trends and pressure from civil society organisations demanded that management of the natural resources should also demonstrate governance in terms of transparency, accountability and equitable benefits sharing.

Media reportage of the sector has always focused on events reporting rather than identifying illegalities and following through its investigations to their conclusion and reporting on the findings. Current media reportage has neglected the underlying environmental, socio-economic and cultural landscape issues. Yet gradually, the country is getting to a point where we are facing unprecedented challenges and tough choices about the governance of our natural resources, good governance for that matter, to ensure our natural resources benefit the larger segment of our population and not just the political elite. The news media should play a key role in helping people to understand the associated problems, and in identifying and spreading the most effective solutions.

Realising this gap in the Ghanaian media, various institutions and organisations have organised diverse media programmes centred on specific aspects of natural resources. These have resulted in generating short term reportage that still lacked the depth of unravelling the real issues at stake.

Meanwhile, conversations have been going on among some media circles and civil society groups on the need to develop the capacity of reporters and editors who aspire to produce deeper and more
explanatory news coverage of issues such as water quality, quantity and use, land use, energy exploration and consumption, agriculture, fisheries, wildlife and forestry.

In view of this, Civic Response in collaboration with the Media Platform on Environment and Climate Change (MPEC), decided to package a training event to serve as a model to boost innovation in journalism and expand independent-minded topical coverage of natural resources.

Thus Civic Response, with funding from Fern, through FGMC, organised a three-day media development and training in the natural resources sector. The idea was to improve the knowledge and capacity of media practitioners to take leadership role in the on-going conversation about natural resource exploitation and governance, and also enable them identify and use the most effective and engaging technologies and storytelling methods to report illegalities.

The training centred on the following key areas: overview of the political economy of the natural resources sector; legal and socio-economic overview of the oil and gas sector, legal and socio-economic overview of the mining sector; and the legal and socio-economic overview of the forestry sector. It also covered the definition of illegal logging in Ghana and how the legal definition of “illegal logging” is different from the public perception in Ghana. The details are synthesised and form chapters 2 and 3 of this report. Chapter 1 covers the background, objectives, pre-training activities, description of the implementation, pre-training test and training. Chapter 4 is devoted to media issues including an assessment of their performance in the group exercises, tips to enhance reporting and strategies for way forward highlighting ways of enhancing media reportage on the sector. Chapter 5 presents lessons learnt, observations, recommendations and the journalism experience of participants especially in relation to natural resources. Organisations involved in natural resources governance through media coverage can draw on the lessons learnt and experiences shared to develop effective strategic media interventions.
Chapter 1

Background

Natural resources are known to have the potential to bring wealth and stability to resource-rich developing countries. The forest, wildlife, mining, oil and gas sub-sectors sectors represent one of the biggest sources of revenue in Africa. If better harnessed, the revenues from these sources could help increase support for the health, agriculture and education sectors, as well as foster badly needed social infrastructure. However, natural resources have led to poverty and conflict, as a result of corruption and mismanagement. It is widely accepted that improving natural resource governance, particularly improving financial transparency, is a critical first step to ensuring that citizens can hold their governments accountable for their country’s natural resources wealth, and further allow both citizens and governments to assess whether they are receiving a fair deal for their resources.

The story applies to Ghana. Ghana’s natural resources and environment sector is bedeviled with a lot of challenges such as illegal mining popularly called “galamsey”, illegal logging, and their attendant problems. Natural resource rich communities are entrenched in abject poverty. The often marginalised communities who live with the resources often have little or no say in how they are managed. However, the introduction of various global mechanisms are helping to streamline governance in the natural resources sector. For instance, the forestry sub-sector has in recent times witnessed changes aimed at halting deforestation, ridding the sector of illegalities, improving governance and regulating trade in timber and timber products. These are the objectives of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) signed between Ghana and the European Union (EU) in 2009. It is thus anticipated that Ghana will soon start issuing FLEGT licences. In the midst of all these successes, and in the era where Ghana is under the spotlight for improved forest governance, peculiar challenges still prevail:

- Illegal logging of rosewood in the fragile northern savannah ecosystem and export to China
- Illegal mining in forest reserves and associated pollution of major rivers and water bodies
- Conversion of Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs) into production forest reserves

As part of these developments, the media have been recognised as possessing the expertise to play leadership role in the on-going conversation about exploitation and use of the nation’s natural resources. However, most media practitioners, who are the agents of creating awareness on illegalities, providing information to the general public, asking the relevant questions on illegalities, and demanding answers from public officials tend to have little knowledge and understanding of the political economy of the natural resource sector, policies and laws, and how
the political economy influences policies and laws. It is with this background that Civic Response, together with its partner Fern, organised a media engagement session with media practitioners to build their capacity on natural resources governance issues in Ghana.

The media engagement session was aimed at addressing the issues discussed by raising legal, social and environmental awareness about some natural resource governance challenges in Ghana. The engagement was to be used to develop a “strategic media practitioners’ engagement” document for Civic Response. It was also aimed at preparing journalists towards current developments in the sector including the soon to be issued Forest Law Enforcement Governance Trade (FLEGT) licences.

Objectives of the Training
- Build the capacity of 30 journalists towards an informed and reliable reportage of issues in Ghana’s natural resources and environment sector, especially with regards to FLEGTVPA processes. Specific objectives are:
  - Enhance the policy and legislative knowledge of 30 media personnel in forest, mining and oil and gas sectors to differentiate between the current practices by private sector companies and enforcement agencies and the requirements of the policies, laws and the 1992 Republican Constitution;
  - Enhance ability of media personnel to use knowledge to ask probing questions when infractions occur and demand answers from public officials and companies;
  - Enhance the knowledge of selected journalists on natural resources-related issues so they can provide accurate, reliable, captivating articles on natural resources-related issues;
  - Publish natural resources-related issues so as to provide accurate, reliable, captivating articles/information on natural resources-related issues through thorough research;
  - To develop a strategic media practitioners’ engagement document;
  - To improve the quality of coverage of the issuance of FLEGT licences in Ghana;
  - Engage in informed and accountable reportage of issues in Ghana’s natural resources and environment sector, including the FLEGT-VPA processes;
  - Secure media coverage on FLEGTVPA specific issues such as the issuance of FLEGT licenses in Ghana.

Pre-Training Activities
A Scope of work for the training was circulated by Civic Response to which the Facilitator responded with an expression of interest. The Facilitator in consultation with Albert Katako, Head of Programmes along with the Civic Response team identified the TaylorCrabbe Team; and a Communication Consultant, Journalist, Rights Activist; and Head of the Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC), Dr. Steve Manteaw as the main resource persons because of their knowledge of issues in the natural resources sector. They together with the Facilitator formed the training’s implementing team.
Jointly with the resource team, it was agreed that the number of participants should be restricted to 30 to ensure effective interaction, learning and participation.

Subsequently, the facilitator developed a draft training module to guide the delivery of the various components of the training. The module presented an overview of the training, the learning objectives, target, and relevance for participants and a summary of the topics, objectives and approaches, as well as the tentative agenda.

The implementing team discussed the contents of the module and made inputs based on which a finalised module was produced. The team identified the media participants for the workshop, assessed issues at stake necessitating the workshop and outlined priority issues for discussions at the workshop.

**Description of the Implementation**

The training was residential for all the 30 participants selected from major media houses across the 16 regions of the country.

The effective training days were the 19th, 20th and 21st of September, 2019.

On day one (Thursday 19th September) of the training, the Communications Officer of Civic Response led the participants to introduce themselves and took them through logistics arrangements for the workshop.

Mr. Katako formerly welcomed the participants and briefed them on the rationale for the training. He said in view of recent developments in the natural resources sector, there is the need for vibrant media that are well equipped with knowledge to report on relevant issues. He bemoaned the fact that journalists were not knowledgeable about the natural resources sector policies and laws and therefore were unable to detect wrong doings by government officials and the private sector, unable to independently investigate wrong doings to their logical conclusion and publish findings. Hence, they were unable to ask critical and probing questions when interviewing stakeholders. He remarked that this training was meant to correct these lapses and get journalists to be proactive in documenting and reporting natural resources issues. He hoped that the training would inspire the trainees to develop the passion for research, and educate themselves more and more on the political economy governing natural resource exploitation, and its influence on policy development and legislation. He charged the trainees to share with Civic Response at least one publication in a quarter.

**The Pre-Training Test and Ensuing Discussion**

The facilitator led participants through a pre-training test which was intended to assess their understanding of the issues in the Natural Resources and Environment Governance (NREG) sector.
The test revealed that participants had fair knowledge about some of the laws and policies governing the mining, oil and gas sectors. However, they had little knowledge of forestry related laws and policies. The test was followed by a period of open discussions of the questions.

They had a limited understanding of governance; they understood that governance had to do with benefits sharing, management and regulation of natural resources for the benefit of all by all. Good governance includes how decisions are made and how these decisions are implemented, ensuring those who will be affected are involved in every aspect of the process and their rights respected. It also includes mechanisms by which citizens can hold duty bearers accountable. They knew about the Petroleum ACT 919, Minerals and Mining Laws 703, Fisheries Act 625 and Forestry Regulations, Act 571. They described the natural resources sector as a sector full of corruption, ignorance, unemployment and lack of will to prosecute offenders, especially as they are mostly “big hands.”

The participants had many expectations and demonstrated eagerness to learn more about the natural resources sector and associated issues. Detailed expectations are contained in appendix 1.

**The Training**

This paragraph provides a summary of the three-day training.

The focus for day one (Thursday 19th September 2019) was on forestry and mining. This session was led by Clement Akapame, a legal expert in the forestry and mining sector from Taylor Crabbe Initiative. He introduced participants to the natural resources sector and presented them with a legal overview of the forestry sector touching on the FLEGT VPA and illegal logging and the mechanisms to combat them. Dennis Martey, also of Taylor Crabbe Initiative, took participants through the legal regime for minerals and mining in Ghana. Each of the sessions was interactive followed by animated discussions.

Day two (Friday 20th September) of the training workshop was devoted to oil and gas. A policy analyst, a media person and Chairman of the Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC), Dr. Steve Manteaw from the Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC) was the resource person for this session. He introduced participants to Ghana’s oil and gas sector, provided them with an overview of the sector, took them through the political and economic factors shaping natural resources policy and briefed them on the global and national initiatives for addressing governance deficit in resource rich countries.

Day three (Saturday 21st September) was committed to discussing ways of ensuring quality media reportage to attract public interest and response to natural resources sector issues, and identifying areas for strategic media engagement. This session was facilitated by, Mary Ama Kudom-Agyemang and Dr. Steve Manteaw, who is the former Chief Editor for the *Public Agenda*, an advocacy weekly newspaper.
Mr. Akapame structured the presentations into five parts as follows: Introduction to the natural resources sector, Legal Overview of the Forestry Sector, Illegal Logging in Ghana, The FLEGT VPA Process and Legal Overview of the Mineral and Mining Sector.

On the topic “Introduction to the Natural Resources Sector,” Mr. Akapame noted that management of natural resources in Ghana is heavily regulated by statutes consisting of formal legislation, mainly the Constitution, Acts of Parliament and Legislative Instruments and described the hierarchy of laws as it applies in the NRE sector. He said the applicable statute depends on the type of resource be it minerals, forests, fish or oil; the institutional framework is also dependent on the type of resource. Hence, there is the Minerals Commission, Forestry Commission and Fisheries Commission. Mr. Akapame stated that Article 268 of the 1992 Constitution governs all forms of activity related to natural resources in Ghana, while, Article 269 provides for the establishment of the key institutions with responsibility for each of the resources in the sector.

On the topic “Overview of the Forestry Sector,” he said unsustainable forest management practices and deforestation contributed to reducing Ghana’s forest cover at an average rate of 125,400 hectares or 1.68% per year between 1990 and 2010. Mr. Akapame explained that Ghana’s forests are categorized into national parks, reserves and off-reserves; trees are categorized into naturally occurring on reserves, naturally occurring off-reserve and plantations; while the products of forests are grouped into timber and non-timber forest products. He traced the history of forest regulation from the colonial era with the passage of the 1883 Native Jurisdiction Ordinance, which empowered traditional councils to enact bye-laws to protect water bodies and conserve forests to the introduction of various policies from 1948 onwards. This paved the way for resource exploitation and eventually incorporation of collaborative forest management, community rights, benefits sharing and participation in forest management.
Mr. Akapame said in addition to the Constitution, there are various Acts of Parliament and legislative instruments that regulate the management of the forestry sector. These are:

- Forest Ordinance Act 1927
- Concessions Act 1939
- Concessions Act 1962
- State Land Act 1962
- Forest Protection Act 1974
- Trees and Timber Amendment Act 1974 (Act 493)
- Forest Protection Amendment Act 2002 (Act 624)
- Timber Resources Management Act 1998 (Act 547)
- Timber Resources Management 617 (Amendment) Act 2002
- Timber Resources Management Regulation – 2016 LI 2254

He added that timber harvesting rights are granted through several permits namely: Timber Utilization Contract (Large, Medium and Small Scale), Salvage Permit and Confiscated Timber Licence, and also explained what constituted forest and wildlife offences and their penalties in accordance with the Forest Protection Act 1974, N.R.C.D. 243.

On the “Voluntary Partnership Agreement” (VPA), Mr. Akapame said it as a bilateral agreement between the European Union (EU) and wood exporting countries. The aims are to improve forest governance and ensure that wood imported into the EU has complied with the legal requirements of the partner country. Therefore, the VPA is part of the EU’s action plan to eliminate illegal timber from its market. He said Ghana and the EU signed the VPA in 2009 and having been ratified in 2009, it has since become part of the country’s forest legislation. He elaborated that the signing of the VPA was necessitated by several elements including the fact that “Europe is Ghana’s most valued market, Ghana recognised that markets in Europe were becoming increasingly concerned with the legal origin of imported timber, therefore, Ghana had to put systems in place to respond to this concern.” Additionally, it was seen as a step towards sustainability of the resource and a good opportunity to complement the effort that individual industry players had already initiated towards forest certification. The legality licences to be issued are known as the Forest Law Enforcement Governance Trade (FLEGT) licences. Mr. Akapame explained that the process involves the establishment of certain structures collectively called the Legality Assurance System (LAS), which includes definition of legal timber and verification of compliance to the standard for which purpose the Timber Validation Division has been set up within the Forestry Commission. Other structures are the establishment of Wood Tracking System to facilitate
reconciliation of data across the process chain known as Chain of Custody System, and the
licensing system.

Regarding illegal logging, Mr. Akapame stated: “Logging is illegal when it contravenes the
forestry laws or other related laws of the nation. Logging is illegal when it involves corrupt
business practices—such as bribery—that are themselves proscribed.” He used two scenarios to
clarify these definitions saying “loggers, millers, and transporters defy national laws to harvest,
mill, and transport timber and wood products under conditions that have been declared illegal by
law.” And, “…logging may be legal, because national laws authorize officials to grant access, but
the permit may have been gained through bribery or other corrupt business practices.” Mr.
Akapame emphasized that “the issue of illegal logging is a question of LAW! Not Morality! Not
emotions! Not Donor/academically defined.” He went further to illustrate the categories of illegal
logging including logging timber species protected by law, logging in areas not permissible by law
(national parks/wildlife protected areas, close to water bodies), extracting more timber than
authorized, logging without authorization, exporting or importing tree species banned under
national or international law, engaging in practices specifically aimed at reducing taxes and other
fees, as well as processing timber without documentation that verifies its legal origins. Mr.
Akapame said all of these are considered as crimes under domestic legislation and international
legal regimes such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and
the VPA.

Key Questions from Media

- The big question is, what should we be doing to ensure that all those who indulge in this
  illegality and get to go away with it, are now prosecuted and made to face the law? Shawmut
  Yussif (Fila FM, Tamale).

- What happens if Ghana is not able to meet its commitments to the EU agreement?

- Has there been a consideration to use technology (tracking devices) on equipment to enable
  trace where they are used and when?

- Forestry Commission says it is going to use new technology – the use of drones to check
  illegal felling of trees in the forests, especially the reserves. When and how is that going to
  be done? (Kwamina Onumah, GBC UNIIK FM)

- What punishments are given to people in authority who enable such offences? (Kukua
  Snead-Michaels, ATV)

- How best can your outfit (TCI) support the call by Customs Division of GRA for
  management of Tema, GHAPOH, OMPs, to centralise commercialisation of rosewood
  at the port?
• Does certificate of purchase provide specifics to the contractor and what number of logs to buy? (Fatima Astankga, GNA, Bolga)

• What is being done about the law (or sanction) on illegal logging which is not punitive enough? For 500, penalty units, where a penalty unit is just GHC12.00 is not deterrent enough. (Nana Osei Kyeretwie, GNA, Sunyani)

• How do we handle the issue of chainsaw lumber, which are illegal, but are sold openly in timber markets across the country? (John Sam-Arthur, GCB, Sunyani)

Dennis Martey, also of Taylor Crabbe Initiative, presented the participants with an “overview of the Legal Regime for Minerals and Mining in Ghana.” He defined minerals as “a substance in solid or liquid form that occurs naturally in or on the earth, or on or under the sea bed, formed by or subject to geological process including industrial minerals,” and it does not include petroleum or water. (Section 111 of Act 703). He said per Article 257 (6) of the 1992 Constitution, all minerals in their natural state found on, within or beneath the soil, water courses and seas of Ghana are owned by the Republic and vested in the president in trust for all Ghanaians.

Mr. Martey gave the list of laws on minerals and mining as including: The 1992 Constitution of Ghana; Acts of Parliament namely: Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703) as amended by Minerals and Mining (Amendment) Act, 2015 (Act 900); Minerals and Mining (Amendment) Act, 2019 (Act 995), Minerals Commission Act, 1993 (Act 450) and the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490); and various legislative instruments such as Minerals and Mining (General) Regulations, 2012 (L.I. 2173); Minerals and Mining (Licensing) Regulations, 2012 (L.I. 2176); Minerals And Mining (Compensation And Resettlement) Regulations, 2012 and Environmental Assessment Regulations, 1999 (LI 1652). He said the Minerals Commission regulates mining operations under the ministerial supervision of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), which is the leading state institution responsible for making and implementing government’s policy on mineral resources.

Additionally, the Ministry is the licensing authority for the export, sale or disposal of a mineral, whether refined or not. Mr. Martey said as part of the institutional framework, the Minister grants mineral rights/ licences on behalf of the president subject to ratification by Parliament. While, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), whose mandate is to regulate activities in the environment, is responsible for issuing environmental permits before the commencement of any mining activity. He listed the main permits for mining as Reconnaissance License, Prospecting License, Mining Leases and license for Small Scale Mining, which is only granted to a citizen of Ghana, who is not less than 18 years and who has registered with the Minerals Commission in a designated area. Mr. Martey stated that after the minister grants the mineral rights, it must be ratified by Parliament to be valid and effective. He also touched on issues of illegality in small scale mining being: commencing mining activities without fulfilling the necessary requirements; non-payment of royalties, statutory fees, mining rights and compensation and access to information on mineral rights.
Questions from the media

- Regarding mineral licences; is the clause for renewal of licences fixed or there are opportunities for multiple renewal? (Kofi A. Domfeh, TV3, Kumasi)

- What does the law say about mining of clay for both small scale and large scale purposes? (John Sam-Arthur, GBC, Sunyani)

- In clear terms clues the inter-ministerial committee have the mandate to issue out licenses. Communities are now mining unclear licence from them – Yvonne Neequaye, TV3 Eastern Region.

- Knowing that the new amendment will not take retrospective effect will … existing contracts be abrogated. What’s the plan with the salt industry? Why do we not see enough regulations? – Benjamin Aklama.

- Are the foreigners naturalized as Ghanaians allowed to operate under a small-scale mining? What about those who have married Ghanaian women and are operating together with the wife as the ring leader? Ghana is said to be the leading in terms of salt production in the whole of West Africa yet very little attention is paid to that type of minerals. Why? (Kwamena Ounma, UNIIK FM, Sefwi Wiawso)

- Can a government established Commission issue a license to an individual or a company to extract a natural resource without a parliamentary approval? I also suggest that appointment of CEOs of various State Commissions must not be political.
Dr. Steve Manteaw was the main resource person for day two. In his first presentation, he introduced participants to the oil and gas sector and said oil is formed from decomposition of organic matter over thousands of years, so the older a field area, the richer the resources. He traced the history of oil exploration in Ghana to the 19th century when wells were drilled around Half Assini following sightings of oil seeps onshore Tano Basin. Then in the 1960’s efforts were made to find oil in commercial quantities. In 1983, the country’s search for oil was pushed by the setting up of the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), which found a number of oil and gas fields in the basin. He said the country has four main basins namely: Inland Voltaian Basin, Tano-Cape Three Points Basin, Saltpond Basin and Accra-Keta Basin. So far, a total of 89 wells were drilled in the offshore zone with six insignificant discoveries made. The discovery of the Jubilee Field, producing about 600 barrels of crude oil per day, was the country’s most significant find. Dr. Manteaw listed 12 institutions that play key roles in the oil and gas sector. They include Ministry of Energy, Petroleum Commission, EPA, Fisheries Commission, Ministry of Finance, GNPC, Ghana Revenue Authority, Bank of Ghana, Investment Advisory Committee (IAC), Auditor General, Parliament and the Public Interest Accountability Committee (PIAC). Dr. Manteaw said 315,021,308 barrels of crude oil was produced between 2010 and 2018, and the cumulative revenue generated from 2011 to 2018 is US$4.97 Billion. He explained that petroleum revenue distribution is in accordance with the provision of the Petroleum Revenue Management Act (PRMA) with 38% going to the Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA), 31% to Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), 22% to the Ghana Stabilisation Fund (GSF) and 9% to Ghana Heritage Fund (GHF). He further explained that petroleum funds are targeted at key areas such as agricultural and industry, science and technology, potable water, rural development, health care and alternative energy sources. Dr. Manteaw said that the policy aspirations for the gas sub-sector are: to generate employment and create new infrastructure to support a vibrant petroleum and petrochemical industry, provide a new economic growth pole for Ghana in the Western Region, secure competitiveness of local industry and assist in transforming the proceeds from a depleting resource into sustainable benefits for the country among other things. He noted that all activities in Ghana’s upstream oil and gas sector, from the decision to extract, through contracting, exploration, production, environmental regulation, disposal of oil, management and use of revenues are governed by law.

In his presentation on the “Overview of the Legal Framework for Ghana’s Oil and Gas Sector,” Dr. Manteaw said laws are important in the management of the sector, because laws set the rules on role and responsibility, standardize behaviour in the sector and level the playing field. He however, pointed out that sometimes the level playing field role is defeated through discretionary issuance of licences and determination of royalties. Dr. Manteaw explained that like all other
natural resources, oil and gas is governed by constitutional provisions and vest ownership in the presidency. Sector legislations were introduced between 1983 and 1987 and gave Ghana the benefit of a legal and institutional regime based on international best practices at the time. He said the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation Law, 1983 (PNDC 64) now (referred to as the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation Act, 1983 (PNDC 64) was the first law to be passed to among other functions serve as an Advisor to the Minister on matters relating to petroleum operations. Dr. Manteaw said the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Law, 1984 (PNDC 84) (Now repealed by Act 919 of 2016) was the second to be passed and it set out the legal and institutional regime for the exploration, development and production of hydrocarbons in Ghana. He recalled that at Ghana’s first Oil for Development Conference in 2008, Law 84 was determined to have been overtaken by events in the industry, and therefore not fit for purpose because it could not provide bases to resolve sector related disputes. Subsequently, in 2016, Act 919 was passed to replace PNDC Law 84. Dr. Manteaw pointed out that this new law is still deficient as it does not address the issue of “sweat equity” (a major avenue for corruption), and discretionary variations of fiscal terms among other lapses. He also gave a brief of other sector related laws including the Petroleum Income Tax Act, 1987 (PNDC 188); Model Petroleum Agreement; Petroleum Commission Act, 2011 (ACT 821); the Fisheries Act (Act 625) of 2002; Local Content Regulations, 2013, LI 2204 and concluded that “several of our laws will require further amendments to make them fit for purpose.”

Dr. Manteaw’s third presentation was on the “Political and Economic Factors that Shape Natural Resource Policy.” He said the mission of every policy is to achieve a certain development outcome. For Ghana’s natural resource policy, the mission is to ensure sustainable development. He observed that the issues have been that corporate and public policy goals are not always in alignment. He said when Ghana discovered oil, the political leadership sought to make political capital out of it, while the companies on the other hand, sought to boost their share value. Dr. Manteaw also touched on several sub-thematic areas such as the nature of the country’s political settlement and its effect on the development of governance framework. He explained that the February 2008 – Oil for Development Conference that set the tone for the entire development context of the country’s newly found petroleum resources was faulty. This is because rather than approach it as a nationally owned process, the major opposition party and a large section of Ghanaian civil society were kept on the margins of the consultations. So, following the 2008 elections and acting in ways meant to spite the new opposition, the new government overhauled and hurriedly passed most of draft bills waiting to go through the process of passage. Consequently, some concerns that impact on livelihood were not fully addressed in the subsequent Acts. On the political context and the determination of the institutional arrangements, Dr. Manteaw said the country fused and decoupled two models of institutional arrangements. One is the Norwegian petroleum industry, which is driven by the separation of functions model, whereby a national oil company is engaged in commercial hydrocarbon operations, a government ministry is assigned to oversee policy and a regulatory body established to provide oversight and technical expertise. The other is the Argentina model, which has a political system that is highly competitive, but its institutions are undermined by a high level of political capture. He said in 2008, Ghana opted for ‘separation of functions’ model, but retained a lot of the hallmarks of the Argentina model, in terms of how the country’s political settlement tends to undermine state institutions.
Dr. Manteaw further talked about the “Economic Development Context and the Role of the National Development Planning Commission” (NDPC), saying the Commission’s role in the discourses around petroleum revenue expenditure options leaves a lot to be desired.

On “Parliament and Public Interest,” Dr. Manteaw said in spite of the constitutional provision in Article 75 clause (2) of the 1992, which grants parliament the power to ratify international treaties and agreements entered into in the name of the Republic and reinforced by article 181(5) of the same constitution, parliament failed to insist on ratification of the Ghana Gas–SINOPEC EPCC Contract. He insisted that parliament will need to re-visit this issue and take steps to ensure it does not re-occur.

On “Local Value Retention and how it shapes Policy,” Dr. Manteaw noted that indigenous participation is important for increasing benefits from resource extraction, and that many oil producing countries choose to approach their local content goals through target-setting. For instance, Nigeria requires a minimum of 95% of managerial, professional and supervisory grades of oil and gas companies to be Nigerians, 100% of risk insurance to be taken out with Nigerian firms, 100% of legal services to be secured from Nigerian legal practitioners; while, East Timor has set a strategic objective that includes ensuring that the petroleum sector benefits the Timorese people in a sustainable way, through petroleum-related industrial growth, education and increased national wealth. Dr. Manteaw said in Ghana, local content is backed by Section 4 (1-2) of Ghana’s Local Content Regulations LI 2204. It calls for first preference to be given to an indigenous Ghanaian company in the award of a petroleum agreement or a licence, among other provisions. But he was of the view that Ghana’s targets may look too ambitious, even though there are clearly articulated plans and programmes to help achieve them. He concluded that while local contents policies might be good, they are weak considering that strong market forces already operate in what is largely a globally-sourced industry.

Dr. Manteaw’s final presentation was on “Global and National Initiatives for Addressing Governance Deficit in Resource Rich Countries.” He highlighted the various international initiatives to ensure effective governance in the oil and gas sector. They include lending triggers, which are good governance principles mainstreamed into multilateral donor instruments and form basis for the World Bank and International Monitory Fund (WB/IMF) support. Dr. Manteaw said the problem is that aspects of the conditionalities tend to encroach on national policy space and do not enjoy widespread support from citizens.

There is also the WB Composite Governance Indicator Rankings, which is a research project that measures six dimensions of governance indicators namely: Voice and Accountability, Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, and Control of Corruption. According to Dr. Manteaw, though the World Bank has denied that its resource allocations are influenced by these rankings, they are believed to serve as guide for multilateral and bilateral donor agencies in their lending decisions.

Another initiative, the IMF Guide on Resource Revenue Transparency, is a 73-page guide, which provides key information and recommends methods for public management of revenues earned from the extractive industries. Dr. Manteaw noted that while this guide is a staff product and not
approved by the IMF Board, it complements the Board-approved Code of Good Practices for Fiscal Transparency, which is the official standard used in the IMF’s reports on Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSCs), which themselves are voluntary and not all IMF member countries apply it.

There is also the Open Budget Index (OBI) Initiative – a project of the International Budget Partnership aimed at promoting public access to budget information and the adoption of participatory and accountable budget systems. Dr. Manteaw said the OBI recognises budget as the most important tool for national resource allocation and seeks to create opportunities for citizens to engage it, by naming and shaming countries with closed budget systems. Hence, an Open Budget Survey was first conducted and published in 2006 and supposed to be conducted once every two years.

The IT Corruption Perception Index was established in 1995 to promote transparency through the publication of a league table of most corrupt countries. Dr. Manteaw observed that even though the results tend to be subjective, because it is based on perception, the IT Corruption Perception Index serves as a useful guide to foreign investors and inform the lending decisions of bilateral and multilateral donor agencies.

He mentioned the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, saying it can be regarded as a transparency initiative. Unlike the other initiatives, it was started in 2003 by UN Resolution 55/56 and seeks to certify the origin of rough diamonds and seeks to address a key element of the resource curse syndrome – i.e. conflict.

Dr. Manteaw further talked about the Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Initiative as a civil society revenue transparency campaign, whose prime objective is to help citizens of resource-rich developing countries to hold their governments accountable for the management of natural resource revenues. The initiative is based on the understanding that when properly managed, natural resource revenues could serve as a basis for poverty reduction, economic growth and development, rather than exacerbation of corruption, conflict and social divisiveness. Dr. Manteaw said the campaign begun in response to the 1999 Global Witness report, “A Crude Awakening,” an exposé of the apparent complicity of the oil and banking industries in the plundering of state assets during Angola’s 40-year civil war.

Another initiative he touched on is the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which has its origins in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. It seeks to open up the extractive sector to public scrutiny, and to ensure that the dividends from the sector are publicly accounted for, and distributed in an equitable and just manner. The EITI is a tripartite arrangement led by government, with civil society playing a watch-dog role, and ensuring that the set goals are met. Dr. Manteaw said the World Bank has pledged to support implementing countries in the area of capacity development and analysis across the value chain.

He also talked about some African regional and sub-regional initiatives aimed at instilling governance in the extractive sectors. These include New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) as a key regional initiative, adopted by the African Union (AU) at the 37th session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia. Dr. Manteaw described NEPAD as “A Marshall Plan for Africa” that is essentially a merger of the Millennium
Partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MAP) and the OMEGA Plan for Africa. NEPAD’s objectives are to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable growth and development, integrate Africa in the world economy, and accelerate the empowerment of women.

Dr. Manteaw added that in July 2002, the AU issued a Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance, which obliged NEPAD-participating states to promote a just, honest, transparent, accountable and participatory governance and probity in public life in their jurisdictions. He said that as a follow-up to the declaration, the AU enjoined participating states to establish an African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to promote adherence to and fulfilment of its commitments in the areas of: rule of law; the equality of all citizens before the law; individual and collective freedoms; the right to participate in free, credible and democratic political processes; and adherence to the separation of powers, including protection for the independence of the judiciary and the effectiveness of parliaments, among others. Dr. Manteaw emphasized that APRM therefore remains a solid, progressive and viable initiative for the promotion of good governance principles in Africa.

He said at the sub-regional level, there is the ECOWAS Directive on the Harmonization of Guiding Principles and Policies in the Mining Sector, which was adopted in May 2009 and is facilitated by Oxfam America. The Directive is aimed at contributing to halting what has been described as the “race to the bottom,” where in the name of positioning themselves to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), West African countries relax their legal and regulatory regimes, and provide over generous incentives to investors. It recognises the fact that many West African states have no clearly articulated policies guiding activities in the mining sector, and operate within weak regulatory regimes. Under the directives, West African states were to work towards the adoption of a common mining policy by 2010 and the adoption of a common mining code by 2012.

Dr. Manteaw said at the national level, the Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC), has been established as an independent statutory body with the mandate of ensuring the efficient management of petroleum revenues for sustainable development. Its objectives include monitoring and evaluating compliance with the Petroleum Revenue Management Act, by government and relevant institutions; and providing open space and platform for public debate on the management and use of revenues conforming to development priorities.

Dr. Manteaw mentioned several challenges obstructing the quest for good governance in the natural resources sector. The challenges include lack of civil liberty guarantees, absence of freedom of information (FOI) legislations, constricted platforms, poor capacity to undertake revenue/expenditure tracking and to engage in policy and fiscal issues, as well as the widespread industry practice of insisting on confidential clauses in contract and the non-transparency of contracts. The non-transparency of contracts makes it impossible for public scrutiny of the contracts government/parliament are signing on behalf of the people of Ghana so as to draw attention to detrimental clauses.

It is important for journalists to be knowledgeable about all these instruments (local and international) and how they can be used to promote good governance in the NREG sector.
Following the presentations and discussions, the participants were grouped into four teams to conduct the group exercise and present their reports at the next day’s session. The exercise entailed selecting an issue to investigate on, providing some background information, outlining a strategy to cover and reporting on the issue, highlighting the lessons learnt during the training.

Chapter 4
Day Three Proceedings
The final day for the training was devoted to discussions on the media’s role in natural resources governance. The main topic discussed was “ensuring quality media reportage to attract public interest and response to natural resources sector issues.”

The session started with presentations of group exercises to assess the progress of the trainees in understanding natural resources issues following the presentations. It was also to gauge their level of improvement of skills in reporting on these issues.

Assessment of Group Performance
Dr. Manteaw led the discussion after the group presentations and commended the participants for a good work done. He stated: “I am impressed by participants’ depth of understanding of issues and areas identified for follow up action.” He noted that how journalists understand and capture
information on topical natural resources issues is very crucial, as it provides the basis for reportage and follow up actions. Dr. Manteaw was, however, disappointed that none of the groups mentioned the use of infographics such as charts or diagrams. He urged them to include infographics in their stories, since they are very good for presenting information and can better communicate messages.

He stressed that the media have a crucial role to play in ensuring that governance works in the natural resources sector. He outlined several ways journalists can ensure quality in their reportage. “If we’re going to make progress in our natural resources management, media should focus on the duty bearers – who are the actors who have a particular obligation or responsibility to respect, promote and realise human rights and to abstain from human rights violations.”

Dr. Manteaw further cautioned media practitioners to be mindful of the choice and use of words in their reportage. “As communicators you need to be sure or careful of the terminologies and words to use. For example, the use of words like ‘adequate’ or ‘inadequate’ create problems of interpretation. Let’s be mindful of use of words so we don’t misinform.” He said media practitioners need to understand that the oil and gas sub-sector operates with highly technical words, adding, “You use the wrong word and you miscommunicate. But we can make it appealing by simplifying it.”

He reminded them that events in the oil and gas industry have ripple effects and can even have serious adverse effects like shutting down the economy. Therefore, in reporting, journalists need to go beyond an event and show the analysis of the impact of such an event. For instance, it is not enough for journalists to report that prices will rise, but there should be an analysis that shows that the poor will be most affected. Dr. Mantaew explained that the importance of doing a story on rising prices of crude oil, lies in indicating the impact of the price rise on the country and how it can be mitigated. Such a story should demonstrate how the price increase can translate into increased cost of production and slow down production making products expensive, in the absence of government subsidy. He offered that the way to mitigate the effects is to utilise the Stabilisation Fund during such a period to cushion the economy. Therefore, journalists need to investigate the essence of this Fund, so they can call for its utilisation, when need be.

Dr. Manteaw also asked the journalists to learn how to relate figures to things that people can easily associate with saying, “for example, if Ghana has earned 5 billion dollars from oil in 8 eight years, instead of mentioning the figure, you can say the money can build 8 of the flyovers we have at the Nkrumah Circle.” This will make ordinary Ghanaians appreciate the amount of monies being generated and the impact of misuse of such monies.

He further raised certain questions that the public has been posing and said journalists should be able to probe these issues and provide answers to the public. Why as a country, are we producing oil and yet our petroleum costs so much? Why do we produce oil and yet we are a net importer, and what we import is more than what we get from what we produce?

Dr. Manteaw said the reason why Ghana is earning little returns on the nation’s oil investment “has to do with our law, which says we must invest in low risks investment. What we can do is to diversify our investment portfolio so as to maximize profit.” He added that as a nation, “We also
need to be mindful of the fact that we have our neighbouring countries, and what happens there has impact on our economy.”

He announced that a technical team had been put together to draft a new bill known as Natural Resource Governance Bill to structure the system in the manner that has been done for the petroleum sub-sector. This development, according to Dr. Manteaw, was necessitated by the realisation that the “overdependence on the oil money is not the best, because total government expenditure is huge and can be crippled if prices go down. So we need to manage our expectation and also police the 90 percent of tax revenue.”

Tips to ensure Quality Reporting

Dr. Manteaw said the advantage of the journalism profession is that it gives one a broad base hold over issues. But then, journalists need to develop their knowledge in order to build a quality career. He urged them to also adapt the following measures to enable them improve the quality of their reportage:

- There is need to cultivate sources by getting to know experts and learning from them what is happening in the industry. This helps to sharpen one’s writing skills and ability.
- Learn to stay in programmes/workshops to learn more about issues. The rush to file stories is what sacrifices the quality of stories.
- If natural resources sector is an area of interest, get to know the laws and quote them and use them in your reportage. He said he is looking forward to the day when a journalist who has read the law, can point it out, when it is flouted.
- As and when sector reports/project reports come out get hold of them, read them and familiarise yourselves with these reports. For example, journalists reporting on natural resources should be interested in the Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (NREG) Project implementation from 2008 to 2012, which sought to address natural resources governance issues with the objective of ensuring sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, increasing revenues and improving environmental protection. Yet after the project, galamsey was on the rise. This should be of a matter of curiosity to journalists interested in natural resources.

Strategies for Way Forward

The facilitator led this session and briefed the participants about the current trends in coverage of topic issues in Ghana. She said the new trend is for media houses to launch campaigns or for media coalitions to be formed to pursue a specific agenda aimed at attracting the attention of authorities to act or for citizens to be responsible. Basically, these trendy journalistic innovations facilitate the creation of awareness on issues that were, hitherto, of no interest to the public and yet impact their lives. Such awareness creation will enhance public education on pertinent issues that require citizen involvement. For instance, she mentioned the Media Coalition against Open Defecation (MCODe), in partnership with World Vision and GAMA, have been going on outreach
programmes to investigate and publicise disturbing situations of open defecation in identified communities and first cycle public schools. She mentioned the Media Campaign Against Galamsey and said during the period, it heightened public awareness about the menace of galamsey and irresponsible mining and how it was destroying fresh water bodies. As a result, the Executive had to make certain declarations and issued directives for some measures to address the problems. Through its activities, MCODe was currently creating responsible citizens, particularly in rural communities who see open defecation as a stigma and work toward obtaining an open-defecation-free status.

The facilitator noted such media actions are contributing to natural resources management. She talked about the Media Platform on Environment and Climate Change (MPEC), a registered media related NGO, formed some years ago with the aim of reporting on underreported areas of environment, climate change and development.

The ensuing discussions, resulted in the participants agreeing to embrace MPEC as a media group to spearhead and facilitate media engagement on natural resources for responsible reporting on the sector. They called for major actions as follows:

*Immediate Actions:*
Set up a whatsapp platform of the journalists and experts so as to:

- To serve as a forum to empower the journalists; update them on relevant reading materials and training courses
- Give virtual space for experts to provide talking points on thematic areas for the journalists
- To announce tips and story ideas/angles on issues of natural resources

*Other Actions:*

- Adopt MPEC and change its name to reflect natural resources as a key focus
- Civic Response and the executive members of MPEC should meet, restructure and position MPEC to efficiently play its role in natural resources management and governance.
- The group should then be formally launched as soon as possible to make it visible in the sector
Chapter 5
Lessons Learnt by Participants

Generally, all the participants agree that training was useful and served as an eye opener to the natural resources sector, giving them the much needed foundation to properly position them to begin to focus on the natural resources sector. The key lessons learnt, were holistically captured and presented by one of the groups as follows:

1. We learnt about Article 268 on ratification of contracts by Parliament.

2. Policy prohibiting logging in the Savannah zone, which is heavily disregarded

3. To ensure that the regulation on competitive bidding is enforced even in the case of trees that are to be salvaged, there is need for an inventory on the exact number of trees to be felled as a result of road construction or any development. This way, the quantity of salvaged trees such as rosewood will be known.

4. New Mining and Mineral Law 2019 Act 995 that expressly prohibits foreigners from participating in small scale mining. The recent handing over of some Chinese nationals arrested for mining illegally and handed over to the Immigration Service is an affront on Act 995, so we need to follow up on this.

5. We learnt that there are different classifications of forests in forest reserves. Based on that, portions are given out for exploitation. We also found out that there are rules regarding the percentage given out for exploitation, as well as measures in place to prevent encroachment of the reserve.

6. The petroleum industry has a unique value chain.

7. The revenue Ghana makes from the oil industry and how it is spent

8. The law prohibits the use of the oil for collateral.

9. The disclosure that about 80% of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is produced in Ghana has made us curious and we will want to find out from the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) as to why LPG is so expensive though we produce 80 percent of it in Ghana.

11. We learnt that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is supposed to be represented on the Petroleum Commission Board, but this is not happening and we will find out the reason.

12. The country’s oil money is to be spent on 12 priority areas. The National Democratic Congress (NDC) during its term in the seat of government selected four areas to spend the money on and this included paying of loans known as amortization and capacity building. The current ruling National Patriotic Party (NPP) has chosen to spend the money on areas including roads, railways and other critical infrastructure.
13. We learnt that the country is yet to establish standards for oil and gas, as well as setting up a local certification regime for tradesmen and technicians. Without this it becomes expensive and difficult for Ghanaians without certification from abroad to be employed in the upstream oil business.

Observations

- Media training is one of the best ways to gain the attention of media practitioners on an issue.
- The training provided participants with a ground level entry into natural resources issues in Ghana.
- The subject matter was of interest to the journalists, because it was topical, relevant and timely.
- The passion, enthusiasm and expert knowledge of the resource persons in conveying the relevance of the subject matter sustained the interest of the trainees throughout the period.
- The interaction engendered frank discussions between participants and the resource persons.
- The group exercise was an opportunity for the trainees to demonstrate their understanding of issues and their journalism skills.

Recommendations

- There is need for quarterly follow-up trainings for the group to keep the journalists abreast of issues and development.
- But trainings should be diversified to include field trips, study tours and outreach events that enable journalists to do evidence based reporting.
- Civic Response should liaise with executives of the Media Platform to identify willing partners for media cause in natural resources sector.
- The Media Platform should be enlisted as a key member of the KASA Platform.

Journalism Experience of Participants

Time was set aside for participants to voluntarily share their journalism experiences.

Fulfilling the Journalism Function of Education

Sule Mohammed, Public Agenda, Accra
I joined the *Public Agenda* (PA) as an intern from the TransAfrican University College. In 2012, I was fully employed as a reporter for the PA, which was established in 1995 by the Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC), to be its public information wheel. PA is therefore a development oriented advocacy newspaper focused on governance issues in particular and also dissemination of research information from time to time. We reporters saw ourselves as educators and were encouraged to probe issues. So our reportage usually starts with a news report followed by an in-depth news feature. The paper has played a key role in uncovering and getting canceled some shady government contracts. PA is currently undergoing restructuring, so now, we only do online publications.

**Leveraging on Credibility in Journalism Practice**

Prosper Kuusor, Ghana News Agency, Wa

I started my journalism career with the *Dispatch Newspaper* before joining the Ghana News Agency in 2009. I am a passionate reporter on agricultural issues because of the exposure to the sector in training programmes organised by CIKOD. My reportage has greatly improved from merely reporting on issues to analysing their impacts. My professional image has been enhanced because Ghana News Agency has a long time image of media credibility and so we are leveraging on that to make progress in our practice.

**Concern for the Environment**

Kuukuwaa Snead-Michaels, ATV/GNTV, Accra

I am an on-line news editor and content producer, and the host of the morning show programme dubbed “Health Segment.” I got interested in natural resources and environmental issues after some residents of Oboasi in Ashanti protested against destruction that was going on in their communities as a result of mining activities.

**In Love with Climate Change, Environmental and Safety Issues**

Nana Konadu Agyemang, *Daily Graphic*, Accra

I started working with the *Daily Graphic* of the Graphic Communication Group in 2005 and was initially based in Koforidua, but later transferred to Accra. It was when I came to Accra that I fell in love with issues on climate change, environment and safety. My media house has been evolving for some time now and wants to diversify. So currently, management is exploring the possibility of establishing Graphic TV as part of its chain of media outlets. This is because *Daily Graphic* no longer dominates.
Let’s Not Sacrifice our Integrity

Castro Zingina-Tong, Ghanaian Times, Accra

I am the court reporter for the *Ghanaian Times* and have reported on all kinds of issues including conflicts. But my interest has always been in court and political reporting. One thing I have learnt over the years and which I advise young journalists to note is, “Please let’s not sacrifice our integrity.” Court reporting is not easy. It is not a place for scoops. The least mistake you make will land you into serious trouble. You need to write accurately and if in doubt of anything, drop the story and do not publish it. I came into the profession because I was inspired by other practising journalists. My current interest in natural resources boils down to the fact that sometimes related issues are brought to court and so there is need to understand the issues properly in order to report accurately. Aside from that, I think as a senior journalist, it is good for me to broaden my scope of reporting.

Given the Platform to Perform

Hanson Agyemang, Citi FM

I am part of the team of producers for the Evening News, which is different from the other news packages. I also produce the ‘Press Conference’ and ‘Inside Parliament’ programmes. Additionally, I report on security and law and did the initial reportage on the Menzgold issue. Citi FM has given me the platform to perform as a journalist and I hope to stay on and make good use of the opportunity.

Relevance and Timeliness of Training

Lydia Darlington, Wa

I am the Upper West Regional Manager for the *Ghanaian Times*. I am delighted for the opportunity to mingle with senior journalists. This is the first training I have ever participated in as a journalist and it has been very useful and timely for me.

There is a Mafia out There

John Sam Arthur, GBC, Sunyani

I want to thank all the resource persons and especially Civic Response for organising this training for us, which has made us realise that as journalists we need to pay attention to the natural resources sector. But from the way I see things, it is not going to be easy for us to report on the issues that we have learnt about here. This is because there is a mafia out there who will try to stop us.
The Platform You Want to Listen To

Cyril Dogbe, TV3, Accra

I am the production manager producer for TV3, 3FM and Oman FM. We pick issues covered by other media houses in order to approach the stories from different angles. Then we organise various conservations around the issues. Our job is to be the platform you want to listen to. So, we try to be relevant in our content. In order to keep an eye on all of these channels, we have WhatsApp platforms at different levels and we also use Skype. We tend to be very business-like in our approach, so we don’t look at issues just as news. So, while we do report on serious floods in areas, we also conduct three months’ campaigns on key issues from time to time. Obviously, natural resources fall into that category.
# Appendix

## Appendix 1

### List of Participants for CR Media Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>No of Participants</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Media House</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashanti</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kofi Adu Domfeh</td>
<td>TV3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brong-Ahafo</strong></td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>Larry Paa Kwesi Moses John Sam Arthur Nana Osei Kyeretwi</td>
<td>TV3 GBC GNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bono</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central</td>
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<td>Afedzi Isaac Arkoh Elizabeth Essoun</td>
<td>GNA Ashh FM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gloria Adinam Tease Yvonne Neequaye</td>
<td>GBC TV 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Accra</td>
<td>(9)</td>
<td>Sule Mohammed Nana K. Agyemang Joyce Gyekye Cyril Hanson Agyemang Castro Emmanuel Coffie Sandra Dewornu Peter Adofo-Asante Lydia Asamoah</td>
<td>Public Agenda Graphic GBC Radio TV3 Citi FM Ghanaian Times Radiogoldonline First Digital TV Xinhus/CNC TV GNA</td>
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<td>Northern</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>Shawana Yussif Rashid Mbugri Iliasu Tanko</td>
<td>Filla FM GNA Multimedia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Savanna</td>
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<tr>
<td>North East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper East</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fatima Astanga Joshua Asaah</td>
<td>GNA A 1 Radio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper West</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Prosper Kuorsoh Lydia Darlington</td>
<td>GNA Ghanaian Times</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volta</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jemima Kuul Ben Aklama</td>
<td>Kuul FM Citi News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>Kwamena Onumah Marlin James Dadzie Kwame Agbeli Mensa</td>
<td>GBC New Crusading Guide Radio 360/Empire FM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Savanna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western North</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total number of participants – 30**
Appendix 2

Participants Expectations

The participants were very eager to learn more about the natural resources sector and related issues. Their expectations were many and varied as follows:

- To be exposed to policy makers/key individuals and institutions within the sector
- To gain insight into the various natural resources laws and policies
- To learn everything about natural resources
- To learn about issues in the sector
- To learn about charcoal production and rosewood logging as well as laws regulating such activities
- To know how stakeholders collaborate to make use of natural resources and their priority areas
- To become familiar with and follows natural resources sector conversations
- To be exposed to laws governing forest resources, especially Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas like Atiwa
- To learn more about natural resources in order to do “changing” stories
- To deepen understanding of the sector and the role of various actors along the value chain
- To learn about the legal requirement for individuals to engage in mining and logging
- To know what the laws say about natural resources as against what is happening and what can be done
- To widen the perspectives on the sector towards better reportage
- Learn more in order to better inform audiences
- To appreciate the roles of the various stakeholders especially the media
- To appreciate the nature of challenges media practitioners are likely to encounter in writing about sector
- To know more about Civic Response and other CSOs and their role in the sector
Appendix 3
Module on Civic Response Media Training

Overview

This Training Manual is specifically developed to enable Civic Response and its partner Fern, to engage media practitioners on natural resources governance issues in Ghana, with emphasis on the Forest Law Enforcement Governance Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT-VPA) process.

Ghana’s natural resources and environment sector is bedevilled with a lot of challenges such as illegal mining popularly called ‘galamsey’, illegal logging, and their attendant problems. In 2009, Ghana signed the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union (EU) and proceeded to develop systems for the trade in legal timber in both the domestic and export market. The purpose of this agreement is to halt deforestation and illegal logging, and to improve governance in the forest sector by regulating trade in timber and timber products. This means that timber exports from Ghana into the European need to be covered with a special license (FLEGT license) in accordance with an agreed Legality Assurance System.

With collaborations from Civil Society Organisations, Ghana has completed most prerequisite processes needed for the issuance of FLEGT licenses, including the implementation of electronic wood tracking system, and the enactment of a legislative instrument to govern Ghana’s forest sector. Given this, it is anticipated that Ghana will soon start issuing FLEGT licences and hence there is need for educating the public and raising awareness about this initiative, which requires active media involvement.

Learning objectives of the training

At the end of the media training on natural resources governance issues in Ghana, participants will be able to:

- Engage in informed and accountable reportage of issues in Ghana’s natural resources and environment sector, particular the FLEGT-VPA processes;
- Enhance the knowledge of selected journalists on natural resources-related issues so they can provide accurate, reliable, captivating articles on natural resources-related issues;
- Develop a strategic media practitioners’ engagement document; and
- Secure media coverage on FLEGT specific issues such as the issuance of FLEGT licenses in Ghana.

Target

Thirty journalists selected from the television, radio, print and online media in the capital and from the regions. These are media practitioners who cover and are genuinely interested in improving their knowledge and skills on expertly reporting on the natural resources sector.
**Brief Description of Module**

This Module on Media for Natural Resources Governance in Ghana Training Programme, is designed to be experiential with technical inputs from resource persons and will involve lectures and simple group interaction exercises. The training is also an opportunity for all participants to share their own experience with natural resource governance and to learn from each other, while learning from the course.

**Relevance of the Module for Participants**

In the course of implementing the prerequisite processes needed for the issuance of FLEGT licenses, it became obvious that a concerted effort is needed to raise the awareness of a wide spectrum of the society, particularly those involved in decision-making and those who use natural resources, about governance of natural resources and how it relates to natural resource management. In this wise, the media has a key role to play.

However, most media practitioners, who are information dissemination agents in the country, tend to have little understanding of the natural resources and environments sector, as well as the VPA-FLEGT process and its benefits to the country. And this is a gap that must be addressed.

This Training Module is one of the responses to this urgent need. It presents a structured training manual that provides standard learning procedures for media workers, to promote a common understanding of the concepts, components and principles of natural resources governance, which are not clearly understood.

**Summary of Topics**

This Module on Media for Natural Resources Governance in Ghana training programme covers the overview of the political economy of the natural resources sector; legal and socio-economic overview of the oil and gas sector, legal and socio-economic overview of the mining sector; and the legal and socio-economic overview of the forestry sector. The training also covers the definition of illegal logging in Ghana and how the legal definition of “illegal logging” is different from the public perception in Ghana? It will further cover principles and components of governance and how natural resource governance contributes to rural poverty reduction. The main topics covered are summarized in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics Covered</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overview of the political economy of the natural resources sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to the natural resources sector</td>
<td>At the end of the session, participants will acquire basic knowledge of</td>
<td>Prior to the lectures, there will be a diagnostic examination to gauge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key issues on natural resource politics and governance</td>
<td>political economy of the natural resources sector.</td>
<td>the knowledge of participants.</td>
</tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Topics covered in the Media for Natural Resources Governance in Ghana training programme with corresponding objectives and training approaches
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The political and economic factors that shape natural resources</td>
<td>Lecture-discussion in plenary</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>policies</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal and socio-economic overview of the natural resources sector</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal and socio-economic overview of the oil and gas sector</td>
<td>At the end of the session, participants will acquire basic knowledge of the oil and gas sector</td>
<td>Lecture-discussion and exercises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal and socio-economic overview of the mining sector</td>
<td>At the end of the session, participants will acquire basic knowledge of the mining sector</td>
<td>Lecture-discussion and prepared exercises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal and socio-economic overview of the forestry sector</td>
<td>At the end of the session, participants will acquire basic knowledge of the forestry sector</td>
<td>Lecture-discussion prepared exercises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**The definition of illegal logging in Ghana. How is the legal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>definition of “illegal logging” different from the public perception in Ghana?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Principles and components of governance and how natural resource governance contributes to rural poverty reduction</strong></td>
<td>At the end of the session, participants will acquire basic knowledge of the principles and components of natural resources governance</td>
<td>Lecture and case presentation with discussion. Lecture-discussion prepared exercises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Media’s role in natural resources governance</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing media reportage &amp; communication on the mining sector/</td>
<td>At the end of the session, participants will acquire skills in identifying key issues for reportage</td>
<td>Lecture-discussion prepared exercises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facts and figures vs. emotional approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accountable media reportage of the natural resources sector-</td>
<td>At the end of the session, participants will acquire skills in diversifying the angles for reporting on the natural resources sector</td>
<td>Lecture-discussion prepared exercises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shifting from business reportage of oil and gas to environmentally responsible sustainable exploitation to meeting SRAs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Considering the relevant institutions of the natural resources</td>
<td>At the end of the session, participants will acquire basic knowledge of relevant</td>
<td>Lecture-discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sectors and the respective authorities as a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valuable source of information and comments</td>
<td>Sources of the natural resources sector</td>
<td>Evaluation Module Evaluation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Team**

The facilitator will work with a team of resource persons who are very knowledgeable in the natural resources sector and its associated issues, and have a track record in delivering media training programmes. They are Clement Akapame and Nana Tawiah of Taylor Crabbe Initiative and Dr. Steve Manteaw a Policy Analyst and Communication Expert.

**Resources Required**

- Pens and note pads
- Flip charts
- Cards
- Markers
## Tentative Agenda

**MEDIA TRAINING ON NATURAL RESOURCES SECTOR POLICY AND REGULAROTY FRAMEWORK**

**VENUE:** AKNACHOTEL, TRASALCO, Accra  
**DATE:** Friday, September 13th to Sunday, September 15th, 2019

### AGENDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY 1</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>RESPONSIBILITY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, 13th September, 2019</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am – 9:00am</td>
<td><strong>Registration</strong></td>
<td>CR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 09:00am – 09:45am | **Introductions:**  
(i) Self Introduction by participants  
(ii) Objectives of training  
(iii) Expectations of participants from the training  
(iv) Housekeeping Matters | Facilitator |
| 09:45am – 10:45am | Overview of the training (CR)  
(i) Introduction to the natural resources sector  
(ii) Key issues on natural resource politics and governance  
Discussions | SM |
| 10:45am – 11:00am | Snack | |
| 11:00pm – 1:30pm | (i) The political and economic factors that shape natural resources policies  
(ii) Principles and components of governance and how natural resource governance contributes to rural poverty reduction  
Discussions | SM |
| 1.30pm – 2.30 pm | **LUNCH** | All |
2:30pm – 4:00pm

(i) Legal and socio-economic overview of the oil and gas sector
(ii) Key sector issues for media attention

Group Exercise
- Explain how the media fits into the country’s natural resources development agenda?
- Identify at least five issues for media engagement/attention in the oil and gas sector.
- Group Presentation
- Wrap up and closing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY 2</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>RESPONSIBILITY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 14th September, 2019</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 – 8:45</td>
<td>RECAP</td>
<td>Participant Volunteers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 8:45am – 10:15am | (i) Legal and socio-economic overview of the forestry sector
(ii) The definition of illegal logging in Ghana. How is the legal definition of “illegal logging” different from the public perception in Ghana?
(iii) Key sector issues for media attention | Taylor Crabbe |
| 10:15 – 10.45 | S N A C K B R E A K | |
| 10:45am – 1:00pm | (i) Legal and socio-economic overview of the mining sector
(ii) Mining sector challenges and how they impact on sustainable development | Taylor Crabbe |
| | Discussions | |
| 1:00pm – 2:00pm | LUNCH | All |
| 2:00pm – 3:30pm | | Taylor Crabbe |
### DAY 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>RESPONSIBILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3:00pm – 5:30pm | Group Exercise  
Each group should identify an issue for media coverage, identify an angle for the story, issues to cover and list the sources to interview. | Facilitator               |
| 8:15am - 8:45 am | **R E C A P**  
(i) Accountable media reportage of the natural resources sector - Shifting from business reportage of oil and gas to environmentally responsible sustainable exploitation to meeting SRAs  
(ii) Considering the relevant institutions of the natural resources sectors and the respective authorities as a valuable source of information and comments | Participant Volunteers    |
| 8:45am - 10:00am | Discussions                                                              | Taylor Crabbe             |
| 10am - 10:30am | **S N A C K B R E A K**                                                   | All                       |
| 10am – 11:30am | Discussion on Strategic Media Engagement – Why and how?                  | Facilitator               |
| 11:30am - 12:00am | Course Evaluation                                                        | Facilitator/CR            |
| 12:00am - 12:10am | Wrap up and closing                                                      | Facilitator/CR            |
| 12:10am - 1:10pm | **LUNCH/DEPARTURE**                                                      | All                       |