

Press Statement

**For Immediate Release
To All Media Agencies**

June 19, 2026

“CSOS IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES SECTOR WELCOME CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND URGE FURTHER REFORMS”

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the environment and natural resource governance sector convening, under the auspices of the Citizens' Platform on Constitutional Reform (CPCR) on Tuesday, 16 June 2026, affirmed the recommendations of the Constitution Review Committee (CRC) on environment, natural resources and energy, and have reiterated the Platform's call on Government to publish a clear roadmap and timelines for the constitutional reform process.

Participants noted that the CRC's report, "Transforming Ghana: From Electoral Democracy to Developmental Democracy," proposes a fundamental paradigm shift in how Ghana's environment, land and natural resources can be better governed for shared prosperity for all. In particular, the CRC's recommendation to entrench a public trust doctrine vesting all minerals, water resources, public lands and other natural resources in the people of Ghana, held by the State in trust for present and future generations, alongside binding fiduciary obligations on all public authorities responsible for land and resource administration offers sweeping reforms that need implementation.

CSOs endorsed the CRC's twelve constitutional principles (intergenerational equity, FPIC, precautionary principle etc.) to replace non-justiciable Article 36(9); and restricted compulsory acquisition to clear public purposes with fair and equitable compensation, two-stage parliamentary oversight, Community Benefit & Heritage Funds, and a proposal to establish a Natural Resource Commission.

They welcomed ecocide as a constitutional offence, urged Parliament to define its purpose, and demanded the enforcement framework (justiciability of fiduciary breaches, annual audits, public interest litigation) without dilution. CSOs however identified the absence of operationalized civic duty under Article 41(k), silence on the polluter-pay principle and protection for environmental defenders, and the critical need for a specialised Environmental and Natural Resources Court.

Finally, CSOs stressed the need for urgency on the part of government as the window of reform is closing.

The CSOs further urged the immediate publication of the full CRC report, a roadmap with clear timelines, and the legislative/referendum calendar under

Articles 289–291, insisting environmental provisions not be deferred or diluted given the galamsey crisis and accelerating loss of forest cover and water resources.

The Platform reaffirmed readiness to support civic education and technical work, keeping affected communities' voices central.

End

Signed

1. Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana
2. SEND Ghana
3. Centre for Public Interest Law (CEPIL)
4. KASA Initiative Ghana
5. Friends of the Earth Ghana
6. Women In Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF Ghana)
7. Africa Assistance Plan
8. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN Ghana)
9. Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC)
10. CDD-Ghana
11. HATOF Foundation
12. Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND)
13. Nature & Development Foundation (NDF)
14. Agrointroductions Ghana (AiG)
15. ABANTU for Development
16. Centre for Extractives and Development Africa (CEDA)
17. Advocates for Biodiversity Conservation
18. Merton & Everett LLP
19. West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA)
20. Eco-Conscious Citizens
21. Youth Alliance for Green Ghana (YAGG)
22. A Rocha Ghana

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