



ONLINE MAPPING PLATFORM DEVELOPED TO MONITOR ILLEGAL MINING IN GHANA

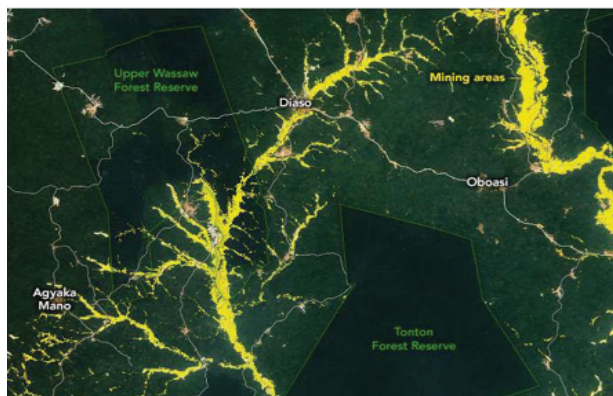
Illegal small-scale and artisanal mining is an important source of income for rural communities in Ghana. However, unregulated galamsey activities (a local term for illegal gold mining operations) in recent years has resulted in severe land degradation, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and water pollution due to the unregulated nature of the small-scale gold mining process.



Between 2015–2021, Artisanal Gold Mining

increased from about **211,460** to **415,000** HECTARES to HECTARES

It is encroaching into Ghana's protected forest reserves at an alarming rate



The Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (CERSGIS), based in the University of Ghana, a consortium partner of SERVIR–West Africa, has developed a satellite-based monitoring service that tracks illegal mining sites across the country.

A key component of this service is a user-friendly and freely accessible visualization platform on the location and scale of illegal mining activities. Once detected, a user can take a snapshot of a mining site, upload its coordinates, and report on the state of the activity.

The information provides critical intelligence to government officials and local non-governmental organizations that can be used to target areas for remediation and landscape restoration activities.

SERVIR connects space to village by helping developing countries use satellite data to address critical challenges in food security, water resources, weather and climate, land use, and natural disasters. A partnership of NASA, USAID, and leading technical organizations, SERVIR develops innovative solutions to improve livelihoods and foster self-reliance in Asia, Africa, and the Americas



Contact information:

Dr Paul Bartel, Chief of Party. Email: Paul.Bartel@icrisat.org

Dr Foster Mensah. Email: fmensah@ug.edu.gh