



## PROJECT SUMMARY REPORT

# Walking Together Initiative

By Settle Ghana | Accra – Ghana | West Africa

June 2022

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*“Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to indigenous peoples. It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories.”*

*United Nations Declaration on the Rights of  
Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Settle Ghana's Goal is for a Ghana where Indigenous peoples lives matter. A Ghana where Indigenous people have a say to give or withhold their God given natural resources, and that the state and multi-national institutions accord and recognize these rights.

Many Indigenous peoples have ancestral, cultural and spiritual ties to their land and resources that go beyond economic users and that are vital to their cultural heritage and the modern practices that bind them as a community. Sacred places, formations and objects may be located outside of the recognized boundaries of their communities.

The Indigenous people of Ghana are particularly vulnerable to political forces and the region faces a range of pressures including a growing population, climate change, potential pollution from rapid mining development, agricultural insecurity via a fluid business arrangement as well as increased civil infrastructure.

The *Walking together Initiative* commenced the long road towards creating a sustainable future for the Indigenous people and communities of Ghana whilst also strengthening engagement and communication between Government, Private Sector and traditional owners.

Settle Ghana, with the generous funding support of the Alcoa Foundation, completed an extraordinary initiative across Ghana that provided an unprecedented level of information and access to indigenous Ghanaians towards their rights.

The initiative covered more than 3049 kilometres to engage with more than 4400 people in some of the country's most inaccessible, disadvantage and exploited regions.

The initiative worked with key stakeholders across many of Ghana's most remote regions. Community

meetings were a combination of information giving and listening to concerns. Settle Ghana used the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and how that can become the vehicle for massive infrastructure and development in their community.

Settle Ghana discussed tactics and strategies for negotiating stronger deals using FPIC as a tool for change and empowerment. All communities were glad to learn about FPIC.

The initiative recorded the information, findings and concerns of the communities engaged and the following key themes were identified:

- The slow rate of development in the community.
- The women pleaded for alternative livelihood support.
- Unemployment rates (especially among women) were very high.
- Community requested school furniture for their children.
- General concerns around health and wellbeing.

An ideal situation would be for the Ghanaian Government to ensure that implementation of Free Prior and Informed Consent becomes a national law. Certification to the ASI standards will enable the bauxite mining companies to demonstrate their commitment to the social, environmental and ethical standards.

The Initiative was able to deliver inside its budgetary framework and implemented rolling budgetary framework in order to mitigate any spending in order to achieve the best value for money outcome for the program they were delivering.

## Initiative by the numbers

1

A single, small  
NGO called  
'Settle Ghana'

4

Staff Members

27

Communities  
engaged

30

Days in the field

3049

Km's Travelled

4422

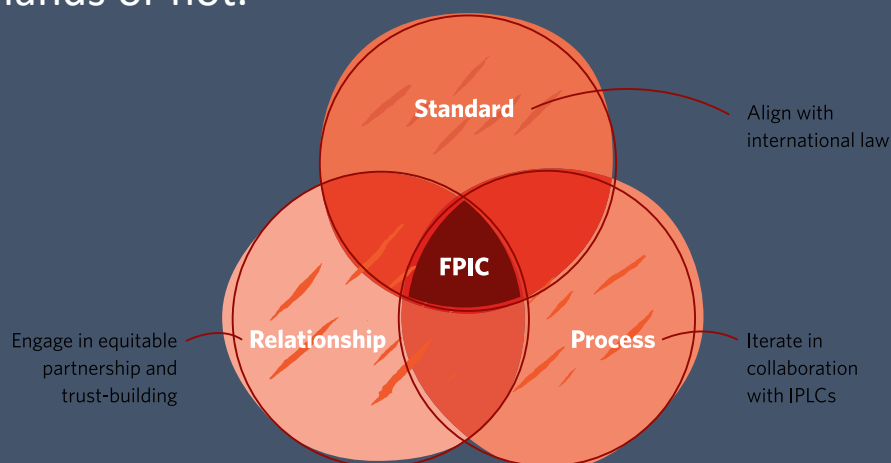
People engaged



## What is Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

*Free, prior and Informed Consent* – known as ‘FPIC’ – is an international standard protected by both Ghana’s national law and the legally binding human rights treaties to which Ghana is a party.

FPIC is a collective right which belongs to a whole community. It means that communities have a right to make informed decisions through their own freely chosen representatives and customary or other institutions and to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes that might affect their lands, territories and resources – whether the community has a deed for those lands or not.





## GHANA IN CONTEXT

### Country Profile

Ghana (see location in image across) in West Africa transitioned to a multi-party democracy in 1992. Ghana sits on the Atlantic Ocean and borders Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. It has a population of about 29.6 million (2018). In the past two decades, it has taken major strides toward democracy under a multi-party system, with its independent judiciary winning public trust. Ghana consistently ranks in the top three countries in Africa for freedom of speech and press freedom, with strong broadcast media, with radio being the medium with the greatest reach. Factors such as these provide Ghana with solid social capital.

### Recent Developments

Real GDP growth was 6.5% in 2019, up from 6.3% in 2018. The services sector contributed most to economic growth in 2019 (2.8 percentage points), followed by industry (2.4 percentage points) and agriculture (1.3 percentage points). Growth in non-oil activities slowed to 5.8% from 6.5% in 2018. The robust services sector growth (7.6%) was driven by strong expansions in Real Estate (up 19.9%) and information and communication technology (ICT) (up 46.5%) activities, while growth in industry was mainly supported by mining and quarrying. Agriculture grew by 4.6%, supported by favourable weather conditions and the Government's flagship program Planting for Food and Jobs.

The headline fiscal deficit was 4.7% of GDP in 2019, while the overall fiscal deficit, including financial and energy sector costs, reached 7% of GDP, the same level as in 2018. Total revenues at 14.8% of GDP were 0.3% of GDP higher in 2019 than in 2018. The government's commitment to close the financing gap for the comprehensive Energy Sector Recovery Program (ESRP), which began in May 2019, added an estimated 1% of GDP to the budget. Furthermore, the financial sector clean-up, which started in 2018 and progressed into 2019 with a broader mandate to resolve insolvent banks and reform Special Deposit-taking Institutions, resulted in an additional cost of 1.3% of GDP to the fiscal budget.

### Challenges

Although Ghana's growth has been fairly robust, the source of growth has always been biased in favour of extractive and capital-intensive services sector which do not have direct poverty reducing effect. Poverty endemic areas are often



constrained by basic infrastructure such as feeder roads that links their economic activity, mostly farming, to urban market centres.

Malaria remains a public health concern as it is the leading cause of morbidity in Ghana. There are still challenges in meeting the goal of reducing maternal mortality ratio to the expected 185 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2015. There are rural-urban disparities in health care services. Moreover, there is still significant number of children of primary school age not enrolled and significant enrolment gaps also remain between the poorest and the wealthiest children.

Ghana's forest cover continues to decline rapidly. The agriculture sector particularly the food crop sub-sector continues to rely on rain-fed agriculture and the adoption of limited modern agricultural technique. Women's access to and control over land, information on land rights issues, access to formal credit from the banks, as well as storage, processing and marketing facilities limit their ability to engage in food crop farming activities independently.

The business climate in Ghana is still weak and continues to hold back productive investment particularly in the area of manufacturing. The business community is often constrained by limited and unreliable supply of energy and affordable finance especially for SMEs to enable them expand production, create jobs and improve incomes of workers.

## Settle Ghana in Context

### Introduction

Settle Ghana is a registered Non-Government Organisation (NGO) that defends the rights of the Indigenous people and communities irrespective of their tribe, religion, race or political orientation. Settle Ghana is honoured to be the first NGO in Africa to join the Aluminium Stewardship Institute (ASI). Settle Ghana is proud to champion the dreams, hopes and aspirations of Indigenous People of Ghana to live a fair and a dignified life.

Settle Ghana recognises indigenous peoples and communities' relationship to their lands, territories and resources are at the heart of their identity, well-being and culture. Preservation of the environment transmitted through traditional knowledge passed down through generations is at the centre of their existence. As the world is increasingly recognising the negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation to health, food security and overall peace and security, the importance of indigenous knowledge and territorial rights are starting to be more fully acknowledged by wider society.

### Key staff



Settle Ghana is led by their Executive Director, Mr Abu Karimu (across). Mr Karimu is an Indigenous rights activist and also a member of the Standards Committee of the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI). Mr Karimu is also a member of the Human Rights working group of the ASI and of the Indigenous people advisory forum. He is the producer and writer of a documentary titled 'Indigenous rights and the aluminium sector' which is available on the ASI website. Mr Karimu is also media facilitator Global Alliance for Rights of Nature Africa Hub and works as a broadcast journalist.

## Settle Ghana's Goal

**Our Goal is a Ghana where Indigenous peoples lives matter. That Indigenous people have a say to give or withhold their consent to their God given natural resources, and that the state and multi-national institutions accord and recognize these rights.**

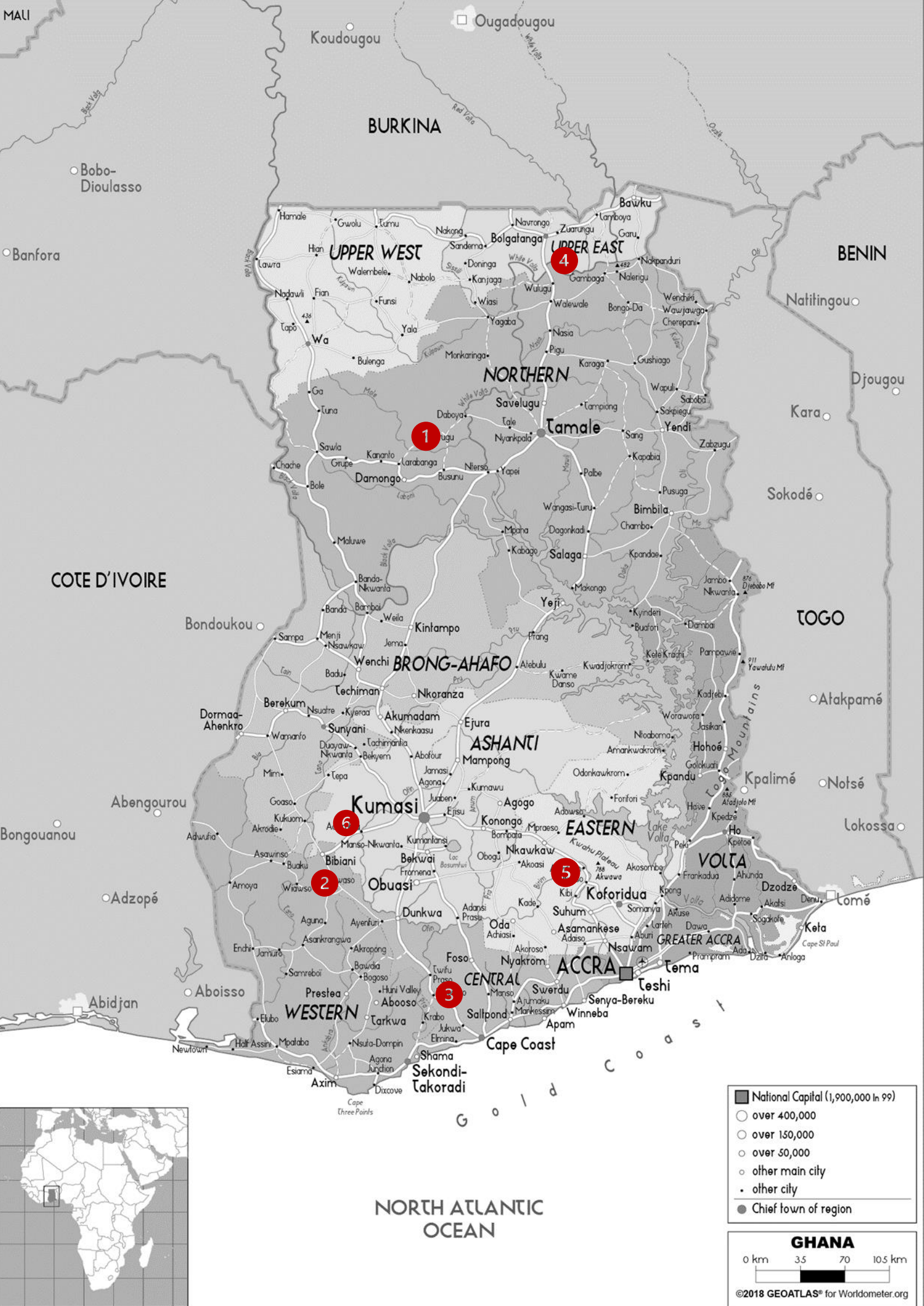
**Below: Illegal gold mining in Ghana.**











### Where and to whom the project operated?

The *Walking together* Initiative operated by Settle Ghana specifically targeted a nation-wide program that worked with a diverse group of Indigenous Ghanaians in the following locations. The dates of visitation to each region as well as an estimate of attendees to each location were recorded by Settle Ghana and recorded below.

These locations are marked in the map on the previous page:

Location marker	Location	Specific communities	Dates visited	People engaged
1	Mole	Chassia, Duccie, Soma and Jang	20-26/01/2022	1100
2	Awaso	Awaso Lorry Station, Atronsu, Chiraano and Asempaneye.	14-17/02/2022	605
3	Kakum	Ahomaho, Abrafo, Mfoum, Afiaso, and Aboabo	14-16/03/2022	708
4	Talensi	Sakote, Tilli, Kukore, Kamenga, Widnaba and Zongoire	6-11/01/2022	1406
5	Atewa	Adukrom, Sygyemase, Asikam and Adadientem	10-13/02/2022	205
6	Nyinahin	Nyinahin, Kuffour Camp, Mpaasaso and Aniamh	8-11/03/2022	398
	<b>Totals</b>			<b>4422</b>

For a relatively small organisation, Settle Ghana was able to use existing network and experiences with indigenous communities to engage first with Community Chiefs Elders and Religious Leaders and later with communities.

The first step in this process of engagement was to issue Letters to Chief's to access community. The letters articulate a complex process of engagement coupled with a respect and formality not usually experienced in western countries.

### An example of this letter is included at Attachment 1.

The requirement to first seek the permission and blessing from the Village/Community Chief is a complex and time-consuming process where gifts (from Settle Ghana) and welcoming (between both parties) takes place. The Chief (in consultation with revered elders) are the protector of their community and needed to be first engaged and informed of the program prior to speak with Community. In all but one case permission was granted to speak with the greater community. The single case of inaccessibility is discussed in later stages.

Settle Ghana provided a high-level of weekly reporting throughout the 14-week program. The ability of Settle Ghana to not only have the network and capability to enter the complex regions they operated in but to also then return to their base of operation in Accra to complete weekly reporting and feedback each visitation was one of the key strengths to the Initiative.

A summary of each week's reporting is provided below:

Week	Date	Details
1	29/11/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established business and project structure including office arrangements including Draft Community Consultation Program/Plan.</li> <li>Commenced Community Entry process.</li> <li>Commenced discussions with Volunteers.</li> </ul>
2	05/12/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued official letters to volunteers to officially notify the various communities on the Days, Dates, Time, Place and Reason for the FPIC Tour.</li> <li>Arrangement of places where the engagement will be done will be finalized. Accommodation and format of meeting will also be finalized.</li> <li>Flyers and other paraphernalia for the FPIC Tour will also be printed.</li> </ul>
3	13/12/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official letters and notifications for Mole National Park will be sent.</li> <li>Arrangement of places where the engagement will be done in the Mole catchment areas to be finalized. Accommodation and format of meeting will also be finalized.</li> <li>Flyers and other paraphernalia for the FPIC Tour yet to be printed and collected.</li> </ul>
4	20/12/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>thank them for accompanying us to the various communities</li> <li>The team also meet to review the tour and what can be done to make the subsequent ones more successful.</li> <li>Final preparations underway for the Atewa community engagement underway</li> <li>Phone call with volunteers.</li> </ul>



5	27/12/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful had phone conference meetings with local reps and volunteers.</li> <li>• Meet some indigenous leaders to formally inform them of our coming as custom demands.</li> <li>• Final preparation for project take-off.</li> </ul>
6	03/01/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The seven-member team lead by Abu Karimu officially began outreach component.</li> <li>• The first outreach program lasted 5 days.</li> <li>• Our first point of call was <b>Sakote</b>, followed by <b>Tilli, Wednaba, Kamenga, Kukore and Zongoire</b>.</li> <li>• The engagement took the form of a town hall meeting. The community was properly briefed about what FPIC is and how FPIC can become the game changer in terms of controlling their own development.</li> <li>• Communities visited, were elated about FPIC and wished it becomes law. They thanked us very much for coming but also appealed for alternative livelihoods.</li> </ul>
7	10/01/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet volunteers and thank them for accompanying us to the various communities</li> <li>• The team also meet to review the upper east tour and what can be done to make the subsequent ones more successful.</li> <li>• Final preparations underway for the Mole National Park and Savannah community engagement underway</li> <li>• Phone call with volunteers.</li> </ul>
8	17/01/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Settle Ghana team headed to the Mole National Park and Savannah Community included visits to the communities of <b>Chassia, Duccie, Soma and Jang</b>.</li> <li>• After libations were poured, the community came out to meet us and we shared the FPIC message to them over a 4-hour period of discussion and education.</li> <li>• Settle Ghana duly informs the communities of their mission and once again took them through the FPIC principle. The community members were allowed ample time to ask questions and sort clarifications on issues pertaining to their wellbeing.</li> </ul>
9	24/01/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet volunteers and thank them for accompanying us to the various communities</li> <li>• The team also meet to review the tour and what can be done to make the subsequent ones more successful.</li> <li>• Final preparations underway for the Atewa community engagement underway</li> <li>• Phone call with volunteers.</li> </ul>
10	31/01/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters of intent sent to the following communities, Adukrom, Sygyemase, Asikam and Adadiementem.</li> <li>• Planning for Atewa catchment area FPIC walking together initiative to begin.</li> <li>• Phone call with volunteers.</li> </ul>
11	07/02/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The settle Ghana team started the Atewa catchment area FPIC walking together initiative on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February.</li> <li>• The Settle Ghana team headed to Atewa Catchment included visits to the communities of <b>Adukrom, Sygyemase, Asikam and Adadiementem</b>.</li> <li>• The Adukrom community is among several other communities who are affected by the Sino hydro project which has attracted a lot of international attention because of the rich nature of its biodiversity.</li> <li>• The chief of the communities applauded Settle Ghana and the team for coming to their community and advocating for indigenous peoples.</li> </ul>
12	14/02/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Settle Ghana team started the Awaso and catchment communities.</li> <li>• This community is host to Ghana's oldest Bauxite Company known as the Ghana Bauxite Company (GBC). Here in Awaso, bauxite mining has been going on for at least 70 years.</li> <li>• This round of outreach programs included visits to the communities of <b>Lorry Station, Atronsu, Chiraano and Asempaneye</b>.</li> <li>• During the meeting, the community raised the issue of lack of furniture for their primary school, and appeal for support from Alcoa Foundation. They also requested for a computer lab and streetlight bulbs.</li> </ul>
13	07/03/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nyinahin catchment area engagement was done between the 8th to 11th of March 2022.</li> <li>• It is the most difficult and complex among all the regions.</li> <li>• This is so because of the political nature of the area.</li> <li>• In brief some time in 2020 the apex court of Ghana revoke the licence of Exton Cubic, a mining company belonging to Ibrahim Mahama, who is brother to the opposition leader John</li> </ul>

		<p>Mahama who wanted to do bauxite mining in that area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thankfully we were able to engage <b>Nyinahin, Kuffour Camp, Mpaasaso</b> and <b>Aniamh</b> communities on a low key.</li> <li>• We made them understand that we at settle Ghana are keen on them the indigenous people getting the maximum benefits from mining royalties so that their communities too will develop.</li> </ul>
14	14/03/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The final tour of the six regional tour was done in the kakum park catchment area located in the central region of the country.</li> <li>• The engagement was done in the following communities namely, <b>Ahomaho, Abrafo, Mfoum, Afiaso, and Aboabo.</b></li> <li>• Just like their counterparts in Awaso, Atewa, and Mole, community's members after the FPIC awareness brief asked for its speedy implementation as a national law. For them the surest bet for infrastructure development will be if Free Prior and Informed Consent becomes law.</li> </ul>

### The Initiatives Impacts

The initiative was broken in to 2 Stages of key deliverables (1) the in-the-field Roadshow and (2) a Case Study plus its associated reporting requirements.

### Challengers and Issues

It is also instructive to note that it is not everybody who is genuinely happy about the FPIC awareness campaign and its implementation as a law, especially some chiefs and opinion leaders. Mostly their concern is that FPIC will take a lot of power and influence from them. Chiefs are traditional very powerful per the current system, where virtually their yes becomes the eyes of the entire community.

### KEY DELIVERABLE (STAGE 2) – FPIC ROADSHOW

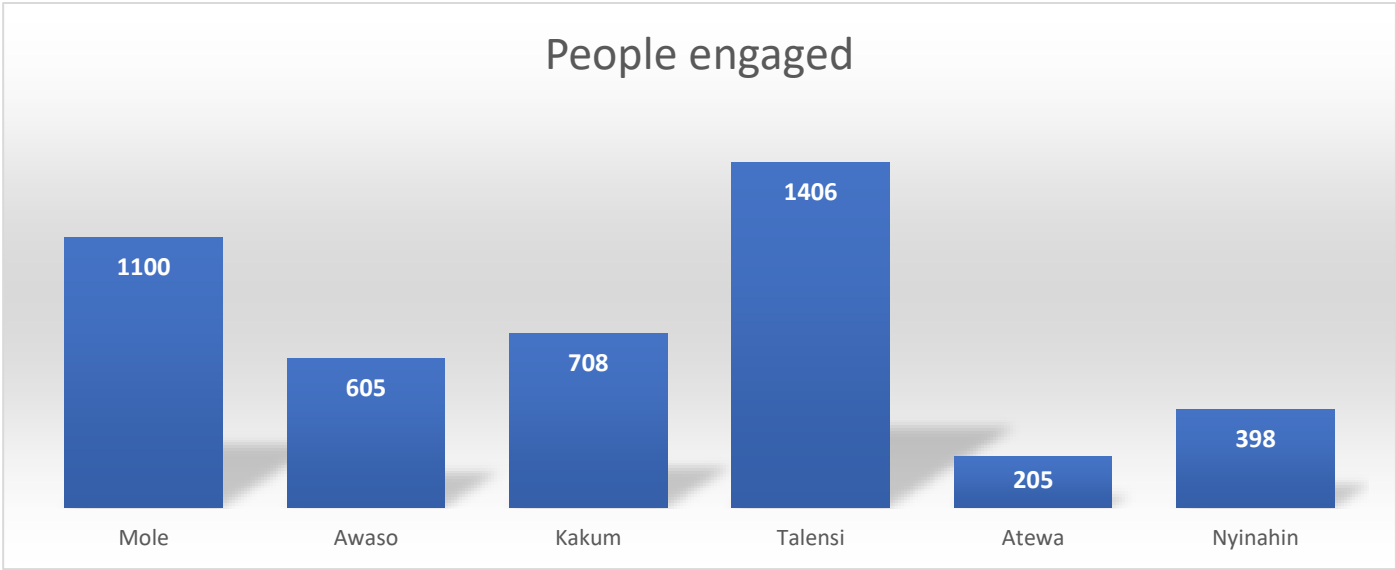
The first main deliverable of Stage 2 is the FPIC Roadshow is to bring the conversation to Indigenous People and Communities of Ghana and insure they understand Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles to provide information to communities to make informed decisions. For social, economic, and logistic reason many Indigenous communities cannot access information regarding their rights. Settle Ghana recognises the desperate need to ensure all Ghanaians have access to make decisions through their own freely chosen representatives and customary or other institutions and to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes that might affect their lands, territories and resources – whether the community has a deed for those lands or not.

### KEY DELIVERABLE (STAGE 2) – CASE STUDY

The second key deliverable of Stage 2 is the completion of an Independently commissioned Case Study which describes (a) the Indigenous community engagement methodology, which could then (b) be used as a model for other community engagement in other jurisdictions. The methodology would be detailed and refined prior to project commencement and would be detailed with the assistance of Settle Ghana. Settle Ghana positively impacts the life of Indigenous people by providing the following services:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. FPIC Education Road show                 | 8. Resolving ethnic & chieftain conflict |
| 2. Alternative livelihoods                  | 9. Indigenous people photo exhibition    |
| 3. School furniture for Indigenous children | 10. Indigenous communities mapping       |
| 4. One Indigenous child one solar lamp      | 11. Water for communities                |
| 5. Tricycle ambulance in 4 communities      | 12. Anti-snake venoms program            |
| 6. Computer lab for 4 communities           | 13. Indigenous women growing opportunity |
| 7. Research and documentation               | 14. Indigenous Dialogue series           |

The Program was able to engage over 4400 people often in some of Ghana's most disadvantaged and remote communities. The number of attendees were recorded by Settle Ghana and photography used to demonstrate the estimate. Stakeholder Engagement was a combination of formal town square style session but also by ad-hoc small group session.





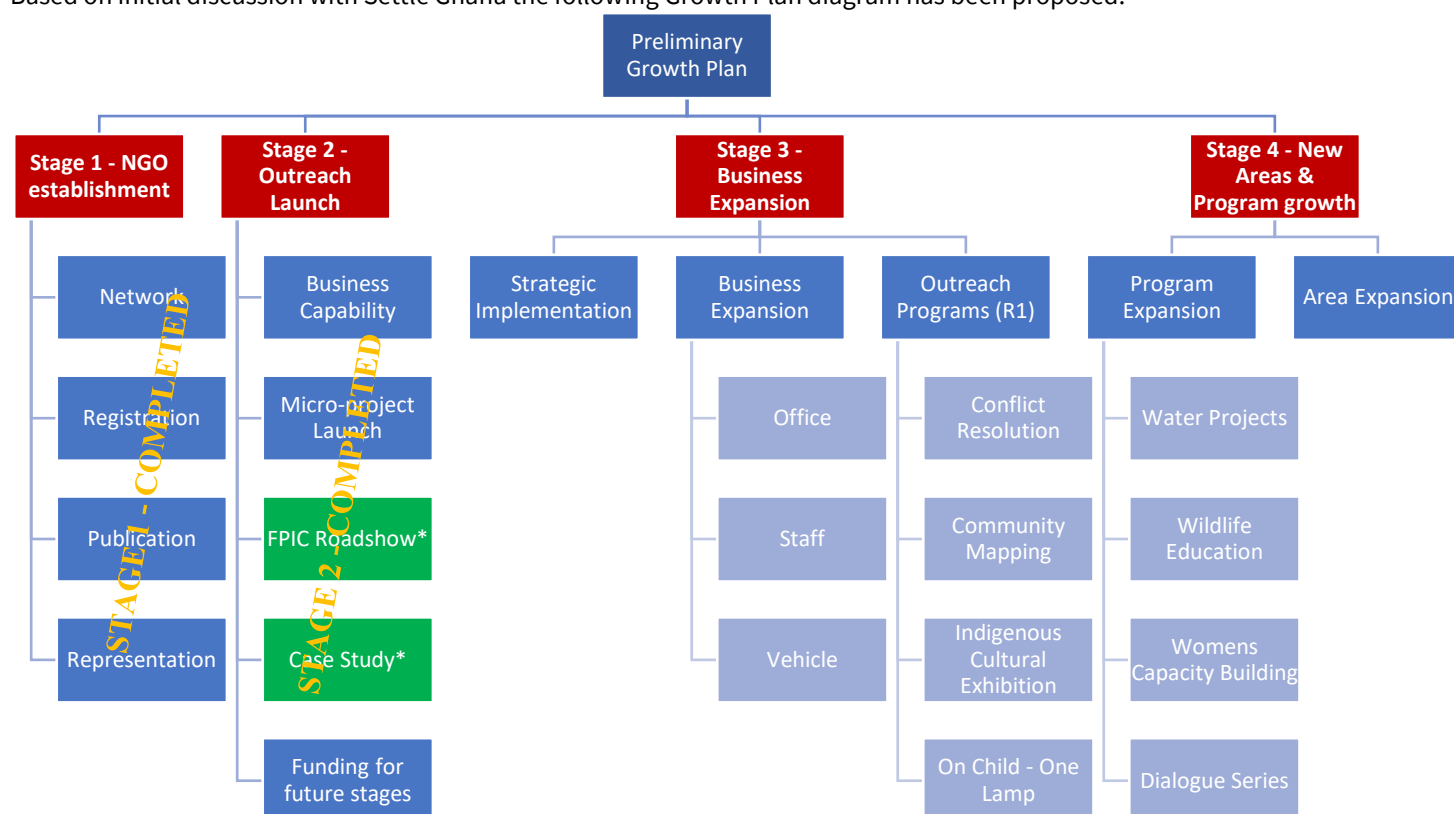
## SETTLE GHANA GROWTH PLAN

### Introduction

Settle Ghana has worked with an Australian-based, Economic Development Consultant to develop a Growth Plan that enables Settle Ghana plan their growth whilst maximising their impact to their clients. This plan allows Settle Ghana to be more efficient in generating new areas of growth and areas of revenue by focusing on the value that customers can see.

The Settle Ghana Growth Plan is designed to be a nimble, multi-staged program based over a 12–18-month period. The tactics used in Settle Ghana's Growth Plan is to use short sprints in 90-day cycles. The growth plan has also been tailored to be agile and adaptable to changes in funding support and as market conditions change. At the completion of this initial growth period a targeted Grant/Funding campaign will have been completed and more detailed research and planning will have been undertaken on how Settle Ghana undertakes future Business Development and Expansion modelling.

Based on initial discussion with Settle Ghana the following Growth Plan diagram has been proposed:



### Stage 1 – Business Establishment *(Completed)*

Settle Ghana was established in 2019, this business establishment period necessitated the need for a streamlined operation which maximised outputs whilst minimising expenditure. During this period, the Settle Ghana team establish networks into community and into government and non-government organisations. Businesses were registered with the relevant agencies. This period has been particularly difficult given the global events of COVID-19 but has also helped to establish Settle Ghana's strong future position.

### Stage 2 - Micro-programs and development *(part of this stage)*

Stage 2 will develop Settle Ghana's business capability while leveraging their existing business capital to undertake micro-projects and further identify seed-funding for further outreach programs to some of the more remote locations inside Ghana. This stage is measured, it only seeks the minimum level of investment to further assess and implement Settle Ghana's initial business goals. In this way such steps ensure assurance and confidence for future investment claims. Central to this stage will be the FPIC Roadshow (described in later sections).

### Stage 3 – Business Expansion and Outreach Expansion

Stage 3 will implement the findings of the Business Capability stages. Preliminary discussions with Settle Ghana have articulated that this would include a capitalisation of Settle Ghana including the acquisition of an office for ongoing works as well as the obtainment of a vehicle to ensure access to remote communities of Ghana. Connected to this capitalisation would be the

introduction of staff (human capital) which would help support the introduction of outreach programs – the outreach programs would be activated based on a prioritisation of the most impactful programs against a risk assessment surrounding their implementation.

### Stage 4 – New Program Introduction

Stage 3 would be centred around expansion and sustainable growth – this stage would include the addition of secondary programs and services to clients whilst ensuring that human resources can keep with the business development plan. Stage 3 would also include new community groups which may also benefit from Settle Ghana's services so the stage would not only be about program growth but also area growth.

## CONCLUSION

Settle Ghana is a unique and positive social initiative which draws on international best practice, such as that advised and accepted by the United Nations to build the capability on Indigenous People in Ghana. By the evidence presented by Settle Ghana the Indigenous people to practice Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). There is also no reported evidence of a national or provincial legal framework which protects this right as well as the lands they manage for time immemorial.

As international, multi-national corporate interest in the mineral and mining resources of Ghana to continue to grow a social response to this growth, as presented by Settle Ghana, appears to be of vital importance to the social, economic and environmental safety of the Indigenous People who shares the areas of land which have high economic mining and mineral value.

Settle Ghana also provides a value-for-money business model by supplementing their FPIC initiative with numerous positive social programs which develop the capability of youth in these communities, inform on agricultural and environmental management but also implement technology (such as solar lighting) which is taken for granted in the developed world nations. The rationale for this is simple, in mobilising to this remote and logistically difficult to access communities – a greater suite of information and programs should be implemented simultaneously.

Based on the limited information provided, the initiative has significant social, environmental and economic merit. It is based on already existing business framework and has a strong preliminary plan for implementation. Based on this and the other information presented in this document it is recommended that Settle Ghana be provided funding to commence Stage 2 to further develop their business, their programs and the positive social impacts to the Indigenous people of Ghana.