



ESG Partners

SUSTAINABILITY FOR INVESTMENT GROWTH



CATALOGUE



ABOUT US

ESG Partners previously Optimal Development Consult (OPDEC) since 2008 has been offering Environment and Social Safeguards consultancy services for clients in Africa. It was established to meet the increasing demands of client needs and to address holistically, the multifaceted issues linking to Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) and sustainability needs of medium and large companies from all sectors.

ESG Partners helps clients become more resilient, competitive, attract talent and capital, and create long-term value through purposeful alignment with ESG strategies. We leverage globally adopted performance standards and frameworks to support ESG integration and decision-making, allowing our clients to maximize their impact across the value chain.

Through adopting a stakeholder perspective, we help identify ESG risks and opportunities facing businesses and work to prioritize them accordingly. We support our clients in meeting their sustainability reporting and ESG disclosure requirements, and in developing policies and internal frameworks to support their strategy.

The way businesses are being valued by investors and society is changing, and the environment in which they operate is becoming increasingly competitive. ESG Partners is here to support your success.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to realize the importance of sustainability for all your business.

WE ARE

- **Progressive** – we move your sustainability approach forward, step-by-step.
- **Empathetic** - we work to understand you and your business' stakeholders and tailor our approach accordingly.
- **Diligent** - we deliver, with pride.
- **Uncomplicated** - simple, practical, and workable solutions.

WHAT WE DO IN BRIEF

- Environmental and Social Safeguard Consulting
 - » Environmental Impact Assessment
 - » Environmental Due Diligence
 - » Environment and Social Risk Categorization
 - » Environment and Social Risk Education and awareness building Environmental risk and vulnerability assessments
- ESG Consulting
- ESG Framework and policy development
- Development of key performance indicators (KPIs)
- Sustainability
 - » Sustainability reporting
 - » Sustainability assessment in business strategy and risk management
 - » Design and roll-out of sustainability strategy and programs
 - » Sustainability governance at the board and company level
- Stakeholder engagement

SERVICES

1. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Environmental Efficiency organise the collation and completion of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR's) for planning applications and

EPA licence applications. Environmental Impact Assessment is a process whereby the impacts of a proposed development or activity on Environmental Factors such as Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Land, Soil, Water, Air and Climate, Material Assets, Cultural Heritage and Landscape are identified, characterized and assessed. Where it is determined that a project is likely to have a significant, adverse impact on the environment, Environmental Efficiency, working in collaboration with various internal and external specialists, will develop mitigation measures to prevent, minimize and control adverse impacts. Alternatively, we can advise on altering or re-designing the project in order to ensure it does not adversely impact upon the environment.

The completion of EIAR's involves various specialists depending on the nature of the project and the receiving environment. Environmental Efficiency acts as a 'go to' coordinator of EIAR's, responsible for coordinating our own internal specialists, as well as external specialists, in carry out their respective assessments (e.g. Traffic Modelling, Air Dispersion Modelling, Noise Prediction Modelling). Environmental Efficiency then bring together these assessments in a clear, succinct and robust EIAR.

ENVIRONMENTAL DUE DILIGENCE

Environmental Due Diligence Assessments are used prior to the acquisition of land to determine whether there are any environmental liabilities associated with a site. Environmental liabilities could come in the form of environmental contamination (soil and/or groundwater) on-site or the presence of wastes on-site or contaminated plant and equipment that will need to be decontaminated and properly disposed of. Purchasers of land take on any environmental liabilities (i.e. clean up costs) once they become property owners. It is therefore important when purchasing brownfield sites to

evaluate whether there are any environmental liabilities associated with it. This environmental due diligence is especially important when purchasing a site previously used for high-risk activities such as heavy industry or a waste facility.

Our consultancy can complete such environmental due diligence assessments. In doing so we will conduct a site audit, evaluate historical and current land uses, consider the planning status of the site, evaluate whether there have been past environmental incidents affecting the site or whether there have been previous non-compliances with EPA Licences or Local Authority permits associated with the site. Environmental Efficiency may also carry out environmental investigation and soil and water testing on-site to determine whether the site is in a contaminated state or not.

2. ESG & SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTING SERVICES

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) refers to the three criteria central in measuring the long-term sustainability and societal impact of a company. ESG is fast becoming the lens through which investors (not to mention consumers, employees and other stakeholders) make decisions about how to spend their money and time. ESG offers an objective, globally recognized approach to use in decision-making to ensure the risks and opportunities facing companies are fully understood. Organizations looking to gain a competitive advantage are integrating ESG and sustainability metrics into their strategies to gain better insight into their operations, strengthen engagement with stakeholders, more fully assess risks and opportunities, and to drive innovation. Companies today are being evaluated differently due to an increasing understanding of how sustainability-related factors can affect economic growth, asset valuation, and financial markets.

We support clients in all sectors to put ESG and sustainability at the core of their strategy and decision making, aligning business goals with the goals of investors and society to create long-term value.

ESG VERIFIED

Independent ESG risk and materiality evaluation for high quality, assured results. Through our ESG Verified solution, we provide clients with third party ESG risk evaluation, due diligence, data verification and report assurance, so they can achieve high quality and assured results with external expertise and verification. We offer independent, external ESG risk and materiality evaluation, verification of ESG data, disclosures, systems and ESG financial instruments to increase stakeholder confidence and trust.

ESG RISK EVALUATION AND DUE DILIGENCE

Third party ESG risk evaluation and due diligence service that delivers high quality and assured results through external expertise and verification. Identifies material ESG risks and gaps and provides a proactive action plan for mitigating these risks.

A material ESG topic can have significant implications for a company's operating costs, brand reputation and the license to operate in the community. ESG Partners structures the mechanisms of ESG risk evaluation to help investment professionals undertake enhanced due diligence, ensuring that ESG risks are identified and mitigated before they occur. ESG Partners works with clients to identify and mitigate material ESG risks in businesses encompassing a comprehensive set of issues, defining criteria that are compatible with international and national standards and to determine the levels of risk tolerance of individual clients. ESG Partners also advises charity foundations in the management of their relationships with the private sector through ESG due diligence. We offer ratings and monitoring tools enabling organisations to check the ethical reputation and ESG performance

of potential corporate partners.

ESG DATA VERIFICATION AND REPORT ASSURANCE

Verify data quality and accuracy to increase the value of disclosures with trusted and comparable data. Independent assurance of ESG Disclosures and/or Sustainability Report against international standards, such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the AA 1000 Accountability Principles (2018), increases stakeholder confidence in the content and accuracy of disclosures and reports.

ESG PARTNERS offers practical and actionable advice which results in a more focused approach towards ESG reporting, whether it aims for compliance or striving for excellence in sustainability. We can act as your in-house coordinators for ESG reporting, taking over the assessment process including data collection, preparing reports and alignment with concerns of your stakeholders for sign-off. More and more investors are considering company sustainability credentials in their investment decisions. We can help you capture and present the sustainability information they're looking for in a structured, concise and effective way. As sustainability implementation specialists we'll make sure it's legally compliant, reflects best practice and investor benchmarks and, put simply, portrays your company at its best.

ESG BENCHMARKING

We undertake preparation of Benchmarking & Feedback Reports which include a comprehensive ESG performance overview, providing identification of and insights on key areas for improvement. It is also critical to learn from leading industry practices. Based on our in-house ESG database, we provide hands on examples from industry leaders to our clients.

ESG RATINGS

An objective and comprehensive assessment of ESG performance at Entity, Instrument, and Framework level with superior coverage and granularity. Independent data and insight that will set a new standard and will allow a pure ESG cross-comparison view. ESG Ratings provides holistic ESG analytical tools that help the financial community effectively discriminate the ESG quality of financial instruments and entities and make smarter, more informed ESG investing decisions.

ESG Ratings will be a key offering within ESG Partners, a one-stop-shop for the ESG financial community with tools, data, research and insights under one holistic, modular, user-friendly ESG investing umbrella.

ESG RESEARCH

Market-leading insights and research on a variety of Environmental, Social and Governance issues, with a clear focus on implications for credit risks in the global capital markets. The dedicated ESG Research team provides coverage of thematic and cross-sector environmental, social and governance issues and explores their transmission mechanisms into credit risks. The team also provides specialist input and guidance for ESG related research from all ESG Partners' different analytical group areas.

The ESG Research team prioritizes research and analysis of emerging ESG trends and developments with the potential to be highly material to industries and business models with a focus on:

- Thematic special reports, often cross sector, with a regional or global lens
- Major regulatory developments within the ESG and Sustainability spheres

In addition, ESG Research publishes quarterly and annual reports:

- ESG Quarterly
- ESG Trends Annual

3. SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING & DISCLOSURE

Sustainability reporting and ESG disclosures allow organizations to communicate their impact publicly as it relates to environmental, social and economic priorities, policies, programs and performance. This allows businesses to stay ahead of regulatory and policy changes, identify and manage risk, and find new opportunities that investors, customers, and stakeholders are demanding. Sustainability reporting and ESG disclosure increases trust and reputation, helps to attract capital, enhances stakeholder engagement, and provides a competitive advantage.

Sustainability reporting will follow global standards, including:

- GRI - Global Reporting Initiative
- SASB - Sustainability Accounting Standards Board

We will also provide effective responses to disclosure requests such as:

- PRI - Principles for Responsible Investment
- Helping our clients to improve business practices and meet customer, investor and stakeholder demands.
- Meeting Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria has become an important goal for organizations. Customers and market demands are placing increased pressure on corporations to engage in more sustainable business practice, and investors are increasingly using ESG criteria to evaluate the companies in which they might want to invest.
- Because ESG impacts all stakeholders in the corporate and investment sectors, our portfolio of ESG

ESG



services aims to meet the needs of a variety of organizations, whatever their level of maturity, industry focus or need.

4. SDG IMPACT MEASUREMENT

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a great way for companies to make a public commitment to sustainable development. ESG Partners can help companies to align ESG strategy to SDGs and achieve a positive impact on business while at the same time contributing to global sustainable development. By formulating specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that measure company performance meet reporting requirements, we can help you to effectively quantify and disclose your achievements.

We also work with impact-driven investors to assess the impacts of their investments on the SDGs and provide customized advice that helps align investment strategies and solutions with sustainable development. Our team and experts network have extensive knowledge of how alignment with the SDGs operates as a financially material issue.

- Determine which SDGs are financially material to different business models.
- Define relevant KPIs and reporting frameworks

- Develop strategies for meeting industry-specific goals
- Design and facilitating organisation of workshops targeted at multi-stakeholders

5. SOCIAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

As experienced environmental consultants engaged in a wide range of development projects, we understand the need of providing our clients with tailored solutions that enhance the social sustainability of projects. Our social team is involved in the process of analyzing, monitoring and managing the social consequences, both positive and negative, of environmental policies, programs, plans and projects. During the last ten years, we have gained knowledge and experience in developing social policies at local, regional and national level. We are able to support our clients in developing their social policies and plans, enabling them to implement their projects in a socially sustainable manner, in line with their stakeholder expectations and thereby avoiding social risks and negative outcomes.

Our consultancy services focus on the social perspective of environmental protection, including:

- Social impact assessment and social risks assessment
- Large-scale development projects, in the planning phase, require beside the Environmental Impact Assessment, an analysis of social impacts generated by the development of the project.

We offer support in:

- Drafting and implementing the methodological guidelines for collecting baseline social data from the project's area of influence.
- Analyzing and identifying the socio-economic impacts and risk.
- Formulating mitigation measures in order to reduce their effect.

SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

Performing Social Due Diligence work based on international standards such as the Environmental and Social policies of The World Bank, IFC, EBRD. We are experienced as international social auditors for investment projects in different sectors, including: mining, oil and gas, renewable energy, water and waste water, waste management and road infrastructure.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLANS

These plans are based on the process of mapping and analyzing all project stakeholders, and are developed to assure that all parties interested in, or affected by the project, will be constantly, effectively and properly engaged along the project life cycle.

Mapping ESG risks against business imperatives and stakeholder needs can be very complicated and complex. We make it simple, combining your expertise with ours and facilitating dialogue with those who influence your business.



LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION PLANS, RESETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK STRATEGIES AND RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLANS

These plans aim at guiding the project implementation units in dealing with the project affected persons directly or indirectly influenced by physical and/or economic displacement.

Activities performed:

- We support our clients in developing a transparent and fair compensation methodology for assuring that the livelihood of project affected persons will be restored once the project is completed.
- We can assure that the key messages of the investors are clearly delivered to the project affected persons.
- We facilitate the negotiation process between the investor and the project affected persons and provide support in reaching the final agreements between the two parties.





RESPONSIBLE INVESTING PROGRESSION



SRI

Starts in the 1960s

Recommends avoiding certain funds that fall short of ethical and moral criteria



ESG

Began in 2004

Focuses on sustainable companies that do good for society and the planet



Impact Investing

Began in 2008

Proposes investing in companies that deliberately improve the environment or society

PROJECTS

MONITORING SERVICES FOR MEASURING THE PERFORMANCE

Based on the policies and tools presented above, we provide Monitoring Services for Measuring the Performance of these tools. We assess the effectiveness and delivery patterns of social plans, and, based on the findings, provide the path for improving the performance.

Key Current and Past Projects

- Endearvour Mining Limited- Prepared Biodiversity Action Plan for Agbau Mine- Cote D'Ivoire and Adamus-Ghana for IFC approval.
- Abosso Gold Limited – Prepared Environmental Management Plan for Abosso Gold fields, Damang.
- Forestry Commission- Independent Verification National Plantation Development Program. A project Commissioned by Forestry Commission and Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources of Ghana.
- Hybrid Power Systems Group (HPSG)- As Environment & Social (E&S) consultant for HPSG we categorized E&S risk for HPSG's renewable projects for onward advise to their bankers. Prepared environmental and social (ESA) documents in accordance with national legislation and the Bank's requirements. Developed technical and financial model for the HPSG hybrid power system for to three major finance houses in the EU for project financing. Developed feasibility reports, impact studies for all the Energy agencies and departments in Ghana to secure Sitting permit and Power Purchase Agreement.
- BXC Limited- Prepared Environmental Impact Assessment for Amanful 366MW Thermal Plant. Environment and Social Monitoring of BXC projects and ESG compliance advisor.
- Akroma Gold Limited- Prepared Environmental Impact Assessment for Esaase Gold Mining Project
- Anglogold Ashanti- Sansu Involuntary Resettlement Action Plan for Ashanti Goldfields Company to embarked on surface mining in and around Sansu Community.
- Golden Star Bogoso/Prestea Mining Company Limited- Environmental Impact Assessment for Re-mining of Marlu Tailings Storage Facility.
- Golden Star Wassa Mining Company, Ghana- Environmental Impact Statement for G-ZONE South waste dump. Prepared Environmental management plan for Golden star Wassa mining concession.
- Vimetco Alro- As Environment & Social (E&S) consultant for Vimetco we categorized E&S risk, and prepared Environmental and Social Assessment in and around Nyinahin and Kibi Concessions. Managed Stakeholder consultations

and engagement in and around Nyinahin and Kibi Concessions.

- ELEQTRA West Africa Limited- Alternative sources of Clean Energy are Key Campaign by Energy Commission and Government and have the Renewable Energy Act to back their claims. We were task as the Environment & Social (E&S) consultant to look at the Environmental and Social Implications for developing Wind Power Project in the Ada Area. We prepared environment and stakeholder assessment in and around Ada Plains.

- Wind power generation project.
- Ministry of Environment, Science, and Innovation- (MESTI)- Environment and Socio-economic Baseline survey in the three ecological zones of Ghana.
- Care International/USAID- Trans-boundary Natural Resource Conflict Assessment in Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire.

MANAGEMENT



DR. RICHMOND ANTWI-BEDIAKO (Ph.D)

Dr. Richmond Antwi-Bediako (PhD), Environment and Social Safeguard Expert is an industry expert on how Sustainable and Responsible Investors (SRI) are integrating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) indicators in their investment decisions and their engagement with listed companies. Richmond has worked in the Environment and Social space since 2000. He is the Founder and Managing Director at ESG Partners Limited.

Richmond Antwi-Bediako also leads interdisciplinary consultancies and research in line with land governance, environmental justice, climate mitigation and adaptation programs, assessing environmental impacts and local socio-economic development, policy rationality for development, and investment-induced impacts. He has geographical and field research experience in Africa, especially Ghana, Ethiopia and Cote d'Ivoire. To develop these interdisciplinary consultancies and research he has been awarded consultancies and research by a number of organisations such as African Development Bank, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), IUCN-NL, Care International-DANIDA, UNDP-GCF/FC; UNDP-GEF, International Cocoa Initiative, Vimetco Bauxite, Endeavour Mining, BXC Limited, Golden Star Limited, Forestry Commission (Ghana), Aboaso Goldfields, Golden Star Wassa

Mining Company. As an environment and social safeguard expert, land governance and Agrarian Studies expert, Richmond has produced 15 publications, and is passionate about ESG research, field surveys, and training. His work has significantly contributed to positive branding for companies, influenced policies, while establishing meaningful North-South and South-South collaborations.

Richmond possesses a multidimensional educational background having been educated in Ghana, USA and Europe with both natural science and development backgrounds and a blend of about Twenty (20) years work experience in the research and development, mining, and environmental sectors. He holds a Doctoral degree in International Development from Utrecht University, Netherlands, a Master Degree in Environmental Management and Policy; a Bachelor degree in Chemistry and Biology, and a Diploma in Laboratory Technology from University of Cape Coast. In addition, he attained other associate certificates from University of California, Berkeley; Wageningen International, Netherlands; and Danish Institute for Human Right, Denmark; where he studied, Environmental Leadership, Sustainable Energy and Environmental Management; Organizational Change management; Conflict management; and Local Governance for rural Development.

DR. GEORGE ASAMOAH (PH.D)



Dr. George Asamoah (PhD) is the Co-Founder and Corporate Director at ESG Partners Limited. With over 15 years of experience, George has successfully focused his career on growth and diversification at the executive level, creating opportunities for social change while delivering economic value. He is a strong team player who engages and inspires stakeholders across all areas of business.

George has significant international experience, and has worked with organizations, governments and agencies at all levels to understand what drives success. He creates meaningful partnerships while developing innovative strategies and sustainable solutions. He has worked in regulatory settings and has navigated complex, multi-stakeholder environments.

George is a Professional Marketer, and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expert with more than 15 years of solid B2B Marketing and corporate affairs experience, delivering profitable solutions to drive sales, attract and maintain customers, and building a solid corporate brand while maintaining sustainability balance. George has earned a solid reputation for being enthusiastic, efficient and hands-on, and has a span of 15 years active field operations in corporate and multi-national companies.

Dr. George Asamoah holds B.A (Hons) in Political Science and

Economics. He also holds both MBA and MPhil in Marketing from the University of Ghana. He has Diploma in Public Relations and Advertising from Ghana Institute of Journalism. Aside the field of academia, Dr. Asamoah is a Marketing professional having had stints with various enterprises in Ghana. He served as Marketing Manager at Ghana Life Insurance, Senior Sales and Relationship Manager at Barclays Bank (Ghana), Headed Corporate Sales at Globacom (Ghana) Head of Sales/Marketing (West Africa) Isopanel Limited, and Deputy Managing Director and Marketing Manager at Premier Meat Products Ltd., just to mention a few. He is a member of American Marketing Association and Institute of Public Relations.

This combination of education and experience make his uniquely qualified to offer guidance to companies, their boards of directors, and senior leadership teams on material ESG factors that drive long-term value.



Dr. EDWARD FELIX DWUMFOUR (Ph.D) - ASSOCIATE

Dr. Edward F. Dwumfour is an Associate of ESG Partners and a Natural Resource/Environmental Specialist & Climate Change Specialist with over 25 years professional experience. Before ESG Partners, he worked as senior staff of the World Bank Group between May 1999 – July 2021, with responsibilities including the development of business lines (projects), carrying out advisory services and analytics, and supervising several flagship projects in the fields of natural & environmental resources management, forestry, fisheries, wildlife and biodiversity, watershed management, soil/land and water management, conservation agriculture, pollution management, land administration, REDD+, disaster risk management, etc. He also coordinated, supervised and reviewed World Bank and Client country reports and documents in environmental and social safeguards/sustainability/performance management, including providing training and mentoring to client staff, private sector and consultants. He also served as a Director at the Ghana Environmental Protection Agency between May 1992 – September 1998. Between Feb 1992 – May 1994 he served as a Senior Scientific Officer with the Ghana Forestry Commission and the Head of the Department of Forest and Wildlife Resources Monitoring and Evaluation. His is currently serving as a Team Lead for the preparation of ESIA for the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project (FP137) since January 2022.

In academics, he gained his Ph.D degree studies in Agriculture and Forestry at the Faculty of Agriculture of the Georg-August University in Goettingen, Germany and Specialized in Agriculture and Forest Crop Pest and Disease Management. (1983-1986). His M.Sc degree

is in Forest Protection & Entomology from the Technical University in Dresden, Germany. 1980-1981 and B.Sc. degree in Forestry from the Technical University in Dresden, Germany. 1976-1980. From July 1987 – February 1992 he had his Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). Responsibilities included designing, researching and rolling out appropriate biological and cultural control strategies using predators and parasitoids against insects in agricultural and forest ecological systems. Lectured and supervised students of the African Regional Program for Postgraduate Studies in Insect Science (ARPPIS) in Plant Protection, Entomology, Ecology and Integrated Pest Management.

Dr. Edward F. Dwumfour inspires trust and passion wherever he works and maintains high standards of personal and professional integrity. He is self-motivated, proactive and visionary, and his ability to work independently under little or no supervision is inspiring and enviable. He is a good team player and an excellent communicator, with strong organizational and leadership skills. Edward maintains his interest in broader issues of development by exhibiting purposefulness, lots of innovativeness and open-mindedness. His ambition has always been to work to improve and apply his wide and cross-sectoral expertise in imparting knowledge and in finding and executing results-oriented solutions towards socio-cultural and economic development and growth, especially in developing, conflict and fragile countries, while sustaining environmental integrity, protecting natural capital and biological and ecological systems, building resilience and adaptation mechanisms to climate changes and variability. Edward is fluent in two foreign languages namely, English and German.





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