Whatever way legal ownership is distributed via companies and arrangements, people always sit at the top of the chain.

Over who ultimately owns and controls companies.

“Investigative reporting and research-based advocacy can unravel incidences where corrupt companies intentionally attempt to conceal their beneficial owners by falsifying information.”

“Investigations of the Beneficial Ownership Register will improve data verification and quality assurance.”

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State of Play in Ghana
Ghana’s Companies Act 2019 (Act 992) mandates the Registrar General to collect and maintain information on Beneficial Owners (BO) and Politically Exposed Persons (PEP) associated with all companies.

Applies to companies following a threshold:

0% 5% 20%
Local PEP Foreign PEP All other companies

High Risk Sectors
Extractives, Financial, Real estate, Gambling, etc.

Data on over 200,000 companies. Available to the public upon request.

17% of the extractive sector companies have disclosed their beneficial ownership information.

“Investigations of the Beneficial Ownership Register will improve data verification and quality assurance.”

Beneficial Ownership Transparency

CORPORATE OWNERSHIP

LEGAL

BENEFICIAL

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Favour Ime
Regional Associate (Africa)
Open Ownership

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Samuel Bekoe
Economist and Governance Expert

Corruption is prevalent in the extractive sector.
Over 20% of Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) enforcement actions are regarding the oil, gas and mining sector.

Further guidance

Opening Extractives
Unlocking the benefits of ownership data

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Over 20% of Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) enforcement actions are regarding the oil, gas and mining sector.

70% of corruption cases involve anonymously owned companies.

Higher risk of corruption.

70%