

## CASE STUDY



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Development

### IM4DC Program:

1. Minerals Policy and Economics, 2014 Australia
2. Emerging Leaders in African Mining, 2015 South Africa



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### IM4DC Program:

1. Emerging Leaders in African Mining, 2015 South Africa

Improving compliance with the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 is a major challenge being addressed by Sonny, his Director and colleagues in the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development. After attending IM4DC courses Sonny developed two Return to Work (RTW) plans; 'Mining Governance and Community Related Issues in Southwest Nigeria' and 'Designing a Model to Enable Certain Mineral Title Holders to Comply with Environmental Obligations', the latter of which addressed difficulties in compliance for artisanal and small-scale miners. Sonny used the skills and knowledge he acquired through the IM4DC courses to convince his superiors of the need for this.

*I was able to address this challenge using one of the leadership skills I acquired; that is gathering more information on the subject matter. I consulted the mining laws of countries such as Uganda during my visit to South Africa where I met an Alumnus from Uganda and discussed with fellow alumni from Ghana, Tanzania, Liberia, etc. This gave me more insight. We decided to talk with the Federal Ministry of Environment (FME), the agency responsible for approving Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), armed with an MOU my Ministry signed with them which requires my Ministry to evaluate all prospective applications for EIAs and recommend to the FME which should qualify.*

*For the other RTW, I designed some forms, which we administered to Mineral Title Holders in the Southwest region to assess the level of implementation of Community Development Projects and the kind of projects they were executing while operating within the Community and Environmental Protection. We discovered that most of the Mineral Title Holders were not complying with the provisions of the Act and in many cases they do not even have an agreement with the host mining community. However, after about six months of monitoring and enforcement, my Ministry is receiving an increased response. Our next plan is to extend this to other zones of the Country with better funding.*

As a result of these activities, compliance with the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act has improved. Field officers have been equipped to be more effective and more responsive in this regard, and many communities are now benefitting socially and economically from hosting mining companies. For instance, the number of companies that have approved EIA Statements, Community Development Agreements and Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation Programmes has increased.

*I think I can ascribe my successes to allies and innovations; my training by IM4DC has greatly increased my skills and knowledge. I found out some people know what to do but for some reasons can or do not. So it became obvious that I have to apply my skills to talk them into doing the right thing as provided by law for the benefit of stakeholders. Ultimately, I intend to work with groups privately to address some of the challenges both host communities and mining companies faced with negotiating development agreements*

*with host communities, implementing the agreements and complying with the laws and regulations of the country, address community grievances and other issues relating to the social licence to operate.*



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