

CASE STUDY



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To what extent have you been able to implement your return to work project, or skills learned, to your situation?

As a result of lessons learned from the course, the Ghanaian team began searching for answers to some of the problems in the mining sector, especially the small scale and artisanal mining sub-sector. After much brainstorming and deliberation, the team formed an organization called the artisanal mining-Africa network (AMAN). AMAN seeks to promote ethical values, efficiency, fairness, sustainable environmental practices, and thorough understanding of the impact of small scale mining in Africa.

In order to ensure sustainable benefits from mining for communities, management was convinced that corporate social responsibility programs need to be mainstreamed. Mining companies are currently submitting to the Minerals Commission reports on programs and projects delivered under this concept. Three major operating mines have so far complied and reports submitted are being analysed in order to measure the impacts of these projects and programs and advise accordingly.

Furthermore, management has agreed to initiate and institutionalise 'mine-community relation day'. This would be an annual event at the community level on a rotational basis. It is to scale up synergy and strengthen relationships between companies and resource communities.

It is also to manage community expectations for mining companies. The first meeting is scheduled between the minerals commission and the chamber of mines to discuss details.

The above successes were the result of intense engagement with management. This is just one of the skills derived from the course.

What have been your successes?

As above. Management agreement and support is an indication of its commitment to ensure negative social and environmental impacts in the mining sector is managed.

What have been the challenges involved?

Stakeholders' level of commitment.

What are your future plans and the ultimate goal of your project/work?

The ultimate goal is to sanitise as much as possible the small scale and artisanal mining sub-sector and ultimately ensure that mining communities are not denied the right to benefits in the mining sector.