

IM4DC

Action Research Report

SUMMARY

Researcher:

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School/Centre:

Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining

University/Institutions:

Sustainable Minerals Institute,
University of Queensland

Key themes:

Governance and regulation
Community and environmental sustainability

Key countries:

Madagascar
Ghana

Completion:

July 2014

Research aims:

This research sought to address the following:

- Investigate and document approaches to working with Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) from a governance and training perspective
- Inform the ongoing development of Return-to-Work Plans with IM4DC programme alumni

For further information on this action research:

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Powerpoint presentation:

Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM): Training and governance initiatives & group activity

Investigating Approaches to Working with Artisanal and Small-scale Miners: A Compendium of Strategies and Reports from the Field

This report documents approaches to working with artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa. ASM is an important economic activity and livelihood strategy in many developing countries. However, it is associated with many negative social, environmental and health impacts and presents specific challenges in terms of sustainable development. Personnel working for government, civil society and universities in developing countries who have undertaken capacity-building programmes in Australia through the International Mining for Development Centre (IM4DC) have frequently raised the issue of ASM and requested further training in this area. This report assists in improving IM4DC's capability to provide capacity building focused on ASM by building its understanding of the varied issues associated with ASM and the key strategies used by various actors to deal with them.

The report draws on literature and interviews with 18 individuals working directly with ASM to provide a compendium of strategies for working with ASM. In addition, it documents and evaluates the progress of a selection of ASM-focussed 'Work Plans on Return' (WPRs) developed by alumni from IM4DC capacity-building programmes, providing insight into the types of initiatives currently underway on the ground and the learning implications for the development of WPRs in the future. A detailed report on WPRs from Madagascar and Ghana is provided along with a contextual overview of ASM in these two countries.

Key strategies for managing ASM fell broadly into the following areas:

- Knowledge-based strategies
- Regularisation and formalisation of ASM
- Cooperatives and associations
- Training/capacity building programmes
- Strategies focused on mercury
- Financial assistance
- Fair trade, standards and certification initiatives
- Beneficiation of resources
- Strategies to manage the intersection of ASM with large-scale mining
- Land rights/securing tenure for miners
- Reclamation of lands mined by small-scale miners
- Gender-focused initiatives
- Alternative livelihoods approaches

Recommendations are provided for future strategic research and training approaches, as well as recommendations for facilitating the development of WPRs in the future.