
In December 2012, AusAID established a team to undertake a scoping mission to investigate the main issues and options that AusAID should address in the design and implementation of a Negotiation Program in, and for, Africa. The team consisted of: Leanne Howie and Jill Howieson. The visit took place 2-15 December 2012 and involved visits to a negotiation training course, with training providers, tertiary institutions, government ministries and agencies, NGOs and donors in Pretoria, Mozambique, Ghana and Burkina Faso. The specific objectives of the mission are provided above under Research Aims.

The mission established that the opportunities for the Negotiation Program to fill the gaps in support for African countries to negotiate mutually beneficial, sustainable and durable extractive industry deals are many. It considered that although there are some risks involved in developing a Negotiation Program, AusAID could mitigate these by implementation of the recommendations. Further, the risks are outweighed by the considerable opportunities available, including the ability to assist Africans to create long-term local capacity and maximise the impact of the mining investment for the benefit of their entire countries, and for AusAID to enrich its existing programs, strengthen its partnerships with African governments and enhance its international reputation. The key recommendations for options for the Negotiation Program are summarised.

For further information on this action research:
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