

# IM4DC

# Action Research Report

## SUMMARY

**Researchers:**  
Jill Howieson

**School/ Centre:**  
Law School

**University/ Institutions:**  
The University of Western Australia

**Key themes:**  
Governance and Regulation  
Community and Environmental Sustainability

**Key countries:**  
Africa

**Completion:**  
January 2013

**Research aims:**  
The Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance (HVSG) and the Vale Columbia Center for Sustainable Development (VCC) held a steering committee meeting in Berlin in January 2013 to define the way forward for negotiation support initiatives for governments in developing countries in relation to extractives projects.

This Report set out how the ideas developed in the 2012 AusAID/Australia-Africa Partnerships Facility "Options Paper for Extractive Industries Negotiation Skills Training Program for Africans in Africa – Scoping Mission Report" might work with the ideas presented at the HVSG-VCC steering committee meeting.

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## Negotiation Support Initiative: Steering Committee Meeting Report

In December 2012, Jill Howieson and Leanne Howie undertook a scoping mission to Africa to investigate the main issues and options that AusAID should address in the design and implementation of a Negotiation Program in, and for, Africa. In January 2013, Andrew Edge (AusAID) and Jill Howieson (UWA) attended the Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance and the Vale Columbia Center for Sustainable Development steering committee meeting in Berlin, focussed on negotiation support for governments in developing countries in relation to extractives projects.

This Report analyses the recommendations from the Options paper from the African mission vis-à-vis the ideas expressed at the Berlin meeting. In essence, the main recommendations from the Options Paper align with the general outcomes from the Berlin meeting. However, it seems that an earlier step is required of raising awareness in African governments about the importance of, and potential of, the minerals industry to bring about transformative change, and the part that negotiation support and training can play in that role. This is discussed further in the report, along with the idea of utilising the newly established African Minerals Development Centre to take carriage of, and co-ordinate, many of the Negotiation Program initiatives. Other ideas include conducting research to establish a critical change model and establishing MOU's with Australian institutions. The major recommendations of both the Options Paper and from the Berlin meeting are summarised.