

IM4DC

Action Research Report

SUMMARY

Researchers:
Jill Howieson, Leanne Howie

School/ Centre:
Law School

University/ Institutions:
The University of Western Australia, The University of Sydney

Key themes:
Governance and Regulation
Community and Environmental Sustainability

Key countries:
Pretoria, Mozambique, Ghana, Burkina Faso

Completion:
December 2012

Research aims:
The specific objectives of the scoping mission were to:

- Identify and evaluate legal and negotiation skills training programs for extractive industries currently being delivered in Africa
- Present a set of scalable options that AusAID may consider for delivering negotiation skills training
- Identify ways in which AusAID's current programs - Australia Awards, IM4DC training opportunities and the Australia-Africa Partnerships Facility - could be used to support delivery of the negotiation program, possibly through a suite of assistance initiatives
- Identify major risks in the development of a Negotiation Program

For further information on this action research:
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Options Paper for Extractive Industries: Negotiation Skills Training Program for Africans in Africa: Scoping Mission Report

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.