

Sustainable Development of the Mining Sector in Rwanda

The Challenge

The mining sector is a critical source of export revenue and foreign exchange in Rwanda. The country endeavors to become a regional mineral beneficiation hub and has increasingly positioned itself as an important part of regional value creation. In addition to enhancing due diligence in responsible sourcing, Rwanda also seeks to achieve a high degree of compliance with standards on occupational health and safety, as well as social and environmental protection. These factors are crucial for a functioning and well-governed mining sector.

Limited mining and processing skills together with low usage of modern technology are the major issues affecting the potential growth of the mining sector in Rwanda. The dominant use of simple tools leads to low productivity and weak processing of extracted materials, leaving a big percentage of minerals unrecovered in tailings as a consequence.

As a response to these challenges, Rwanda has initiated a short to medium-term education program for Mining Engineers and Geoscientists at Rwanda Polytechnic (IPRC Kigali) and at the University of Rwanda.

The Objective

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen entrepreneurship and improve the business environment and attractiveness of investment in Rwanda. Therefore, the specific objective (outcome) focuses on enabling central actors in mining in Rwanda to contribute to the economic development of the sector more efficiently and sustainably.



Project Name	Sustainable Development of the Mining Sector in Rwanda
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Lead Executing Agency	Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB)
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Our Approach

The Action aims to strengthen the contribution of the mining sector to economic and social development through a holistic, complementary, and demand-oriented capacity development approach. It builds on the achievements from a previous technical cooperation project between the German Government and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), which partly focused on responsible mineral governance in Rwanda.

To enhance efficiency and professionalization within the mining sector, a tailored set of capacity development activities addressing different challenges on different levels will be implemented. In order to upscale and anchor the achievements in a sustainable way, a demand oriented formal TVET program at the Rutongo Mining School will be developed in cooperation with private mining operators.

The approach includes needs assessments, development of curricula and learning materials, and training of trainers. Activities will be embedded in the system of Rwanda Polytechnique with workplace learning opportunities in mining and processing operations to ensure demand orientation. Appropriate training equipment will be provided to complement the efforts.



L. to r.: Rutongo mine site & jewelry design and training in Huye District

Expected Results & Impact

Improved traceability of mineral flows will enable compliance with international standards.

To support the application of responsible mineral sourcing standards from the OECD, EU and ICGLR, the project will develop a national mineral traceability system. In doing so, the Rwandan mining sector will gain market access and international recognition by laying the foundations for responsible mineral value chains which will weaken the link to financing armed conflict.



150 people (15% female) trained on digital traceability systems.

150 people (15% female) prove increased knowledge and skills concerning ICGLR, EU & OECD guidelines.

Substantial progress in the digitalization of mine site data and operationalization of mining sector services.

The RMB's Geological Information and Mining Cadastre System (GIMCS) will be developed further and used by mining operators. Digitalization will crucially help the Government of Rwanda to make informed governance decisions in the mining sector. Likewise, it will ease access to mine site and other information for workers, thereby promoting the formalization of the artisanal and small-scale mining sector.



12 GIMCS modules as well as the GIMCS mobile application are in use.

100 (15 female) technical RMB staff prove increased knowledge and skills on managing and adjusting the digital mining sector services.

Future-proof training curricula for mining professionals.

Updating the training curricula for technicians and technologists at Rutongo Mining School will steer TVET services in the right direction to reflect current trends and provide the necessary skills set in the labor market.



400 (15% female) participants already working in the mining sector have successfully participated in gender-sensitive short-term course modules related to mining operations.

Safer mining practices for everybody, including the environment.

To counter the negative impact of mining activities on people and the environment, anchoring of occupational health and safety (OHS), social and environmental protection standards in the Rwandan mining will be fostered. This way, mining will be rendered more compatible with surrounding communities and more inclusive and gender sensitive. It will thereby enhance its attractiveness as employing sector and contribute to overall economic growth in Rwanda more strongly.



130 technical RMB staff have participated in gender-sensitive training on environment, health and security standards or social protection matters.

50 (15% female) in-company trainers trained specifically on environment, health and security standards, as well as social protection matters.

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