

PROJECT SUMMARY

Capacity development of mineral institutions and of small-scale private sector operating in low-value minerals in ACP countries

Background

In comparison with large-scale mining of globally traded minerals, the low-value minerals and metals sector (LVMM) has the potential to generate more direct and indirect local jobs and has closer links with the local economy as it provides inputs to domestic construction and industrial sectors. The sector significantly contributes to poverty reduction and local development.

However, the income generation potential of the sector often remains under-realized and the sector also faces a number of challenges. Operators in the sector often lack entrepreneurial skills, access to markets, working capital and technologies. Moreover, there is limited awareness of environmental and social impacts of small-scale mining. Regulations, policies and institutional capacities governing the sector are often weak. Together these hinder productivity and growth in the sector.

Objectives, scope and approach of the project

The project is an initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, coordinated by the ACP Secretariat, financed by the European Commission and UNDP and implemented by UNDP

The objective of this project is to foster the sustainable and inclusive development of the small-scale mineral resources industry in ACP countries ().

The scope of the project is LVMM sector, which includes: 1) construction materials; 2) dimension stones; 3) industrial minerals; and 4) low-grade metals, minerals and precious stones.

The project uses UNDP's capacity development approach. The main focus will be on building capacity of key stakeholders in the sector, including public stakeholders such as regulatory agencies and local governments; private stakeholders such as small-scale mining enterprises, associations, and business development centres; and social stakeholders such as civil society organizations and community groups.

Training and support will be provided in the following thematic areas of importance to the sector: 1) mine and quarry management; 2) environment, health and safety; 3) entrepreneurship skills; 4) market analysis and investment promotion; 5) geo-data and maps design; 6) community relations and addressing grievances.

The project will partner with a range of institutions specialized in mining and low-value minerals to develop tailored training materials and deliver training in these focus areas.

Project implementation and management

The project will be implemented at the regional and country levels. Up to 40 countries will be able to participate in training activities at the regional level. The project will engage and cooperate with relevant regional institutions to convene these training activities.

Six countries will be selected for more in-depth support delivered at the country level. Types of activities and support at the country-level will include:

1. Training and capacity building;
2. Small grants and partnership building to upgrade value chains in LVMM;

3. Organization of public-private dialogues to strengthen LVMM value chains;
4. Production of maps and databases on low-value minerals;
5. Strengthening of regulations on environment, health and safety;
6. Organizing community engagement and addressing grievances; and
7. Organization of technology fairs and networking events.

The project will be overseen by a Steering Committee. A Technical Committee will provide technical guidance. The Project Management Team will consist of four full-time staff. In addition, the project will have six country coordinators.

UNDP and Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development

The Low-Value Minerals Project is closely linked with UNDP's broader work on extractive industries, and its global [strategy](#) to guide UNDPs work on supporting countries to govern their extractive sector sustainably.