



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Online Course

**FUNDAMENTALS OF NATURAL RESOURCES
GOVERNANCE IN WEST AFRICA FOR
PARLIAMENTARIANS, JOURNALISTS AND
CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS**



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FUNDAMENTALS OF NATURAL RESOURCES GOVERNANCE IN WEST AFRICA FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS, JOURNALISTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS ¹

Announcement in Brief

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| Course Type : | Online Course |
| Programme Area : | Natural Resource Management |
| Date : | 6 – 17 September 2021 |
| Duration : | 2 Weeks |
| Language : | Bilingual (French / English) |
| Application Deadline : | 13th August, 2021 |

¹ *IDEP strongly encourage and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programme*

PROGRAMME RATIONALE

Given the background and history of weak governance systems in the sector in most parts of the region, the context is characterized by a passive non-state actor community. The challenges in extractive sector are not only technical but also one that is deprived of effective citizen's participation in monitoring the activities and decision of the state. A concerted effort to open civic space in the region is needed, where citizens, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and journalists can hold their government to account for their actions. Until CSOs think thanks, journalists and citizens can use disclosed information for effective public debate and demand accountability from governments, transparency would not translate to accountability.

There are tools, options, and approaches available to African governments for regulating the environment and social impacts of mining and to achieve sustainable development. More specifically Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 10 which is about strong institutions and 16 which aims at enhancing international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement development goals. Governments also need to tackle other issues such as the rights of peoples and communities to development, the protection of the natural environment; the duties and responsibilities of mining companies; the transfer of mining technology to African countries; the management and regulation of the mining sector and corruption to ensure that policies and profits benefit all the people.

Whilst corruption remains a serious challenge, there is a genuine lack of capacity within government administrations to manage the sector. Therefore, many countries are facing administrative challenges due to the absence of qualified staff to manage the sector properly. The complexity of the sector is therefore one of the biggest challenges to better resource governance in Africa, due to weak administrations which foster corruption. The African Mining Vision which is a pathway, formulated by African nations themselves, that puts the continent's long term and broad development objectives at the heart of all policy making concerned with mineral extraction, sets out how mining can be used to drive continental development. It was developed as a charter for all African countries to improve the governance of natural resources and to transform the mining sector so that it benefits everyone not just foreign mining companies and local elites.

In the CSO side, progress has been made in the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) which encourages companies "to disclose what they have paid in taxes and duties to the government, and the government discloses.

The taxes and duties it has received from companies. Recent reports from EITI indicated that Government revenues in the mining sector have increased significantly and the discrepancy between published data on government revenue and the companies' payments is substantially reduced. In at least six countries, the government's policy provides for full contract transparency but in practice not all the contracts are published. In countries with contract transparency provisions, it was unclear to stakeholders whether all contracts had been published, such as Liberia and Niger, and whether the legal provisions were retroactive, such as in Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire.

Still, there is an insatiable and desirable need for CSO's and journalists to understand their role and responsibilities not only in the policy dialogue space but also in legislative debates, parliamentary oversights and reporting and communicating with citizens through media outlets.

Coordination among parliamentarians, journalists and CSO's in monitoring compliance of existing frameworks is lacking and very weak at best. This weak knowledge base and coordination capacity has resulted in sub optimal performance by the non-state actor community. In the region, large scale extractive firms have dominated the landscape and are in most instances calling the shots on how they want the accountability game to be played. Their dominance influence how they engage and relate with host communities and governments and how they abide by national regulatory and legal requirements. This is partially due to weak capacity of CSO's and the shrinking space.

The Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) works to support participatory, transparent and accountable management of natural and public resources to ensure equitable distribution of national wealth, sustainable and environmentally friendly development through its Economic Governance Program. More specifically, the Natural Resource Governance, that is part of this program, also seeks to address systemic and procedural deficiencies and inefficiencies in States' management of economic affairs by ensuring that citizens play an active role in shaping and monitoring the actions and results of government to promote the adoption and implementation of frameworks, such as the African Mining Vision and the ECOWAS Mineral Development Policy, as well as engaging directly with mining communities so they are empowered to effectively demand for proper management of their resources.

Since the post-independence period, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) through its mandate of developing capacity building programmes for African officials, has over the years, weaved a critical mass of experts adequately equipped to design, implement and evaluate policies for the operation and governance of mining activities and the promotion of national development through mining contracts agreed with private, mainly foreign companies.

In order to play their part in strengthening capacity of non-state actors, IDEP with funding from OSIWA have decided to jointly organize a training on "Fundamentals of Natural Resource Governance" for CSO's, Parliamentarians and Journalists in West Africa.

CONTENT

The course comprises six (6) modules including: (i) A first block that will give an overview of the mining lifecycle; Environmental and social impacts on mining projects; Linkages, investment, etc. (ii) A second block which will go deeper in Policy strategy; Regulatory and fiscal frameworks; Stakeholders and partnerships.

SKILLS TO BE IMPARTED

At the completion of the course, the participants are expected to:

- Describe the mining life cycle and give a broad overview of the issues, requirements and stakeholder roles;
- Appreciate the possible environmental impacts including climate change and social issues of mining including artisanal and small-scale mining;
- Relate the opportunities and linkages available in the minerals sector to diversify a mineral dependent economy with related job creation;
- Explain the basic elements of mining policy and implementation strategies;
- Relate the principles of legal and regulatory frameworks to local contexts;
- Relate the principles of transparency, accountability and governance through the engagement of all stakeholders with prior understanding of sector information.

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH & MODE OF DELIVERY

The course will be delivered during two (2) weeks with a final evaluation at the end of each week including a respective score of 75% and 25% composing the final score. The course will be moderated asynchronously on a weekly basis and participants are required to participate in the weekly on-line discussions. The lessons are designed in a way that learners are also able to self-assess their understanding through practical exercises which will be in the form of case studies that will support active learning. Additional resources such as bibliographies, web links and optional readings are provided for participants who wish to deepen their knowledge of the course topic.

Highly interactive approach is encouraged between resource persons and trainees and among the trainees themselves for this course.

The approach will be as follows:

- Theoretical instruction through presentations;
- Class group discussions in online fora;
- Quizzes at the end of each module.

Participants are expected to familiarise or have in their position the following documents from their countries, if available:

- Mining industry reports;
- Ministry of Mines annual reports;
- Constitution;
- Mining policy;
- Mining Act;

Other useful national documents that the participant might find useful include:

- National Development Plan;

- Local content legislation;
- Industrial Policy Act;
- etc.

The course will be delivered in English and French. The pedagogical team will include a Course Director with first-hand knowledge of the political, economic and social issues of Natural Resource Governance in Africa. He or she will team up with a moderator and a technical support. In line with the IDEP pedagogical philosophy, the presentation of the course modules will combine a knowledge-building component with experience-sharing among participants.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

A Certificate of Completion will be issued by IDEP to all participants who successfully complete the course-related self-assessments presented for each module.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The course aims at gathering civil society members, journalists, parliament members as well as youth interested in mining governance issues, accountability and policy advocacy. The target audience for the course is eligible candidates from the above-mentioned sector but coming from Western Africa region.

ACCEPTANCE TO THE COURSE

Until the registration deadline, participants are accepted to the course on a rolling basis and subject to availability of slots. Please refer to the paragraph below to see priority target group. Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform at <https://www.unidep.org/?apply>

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Access to internet is an essential condition for participation. The following specifications, as a minimum in terms of hardware and software, are required to take this e-Learning course, please consult your Network Administrator or Systems person to ensure that you have the following:

- Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X; Linux
- Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space
- Software:
 - o Adobe Acrobat Reader
 - o Adobe Flash Player
 - o Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
 - o Browser: Internet Explorer 7 or higher or Firefox 36 or higher
- Modem: 56 K
- Note that JavaScript, Cookies and Pop-ups must be enabled

IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: 13th August 2021
- Course Period: 6th – 17th September 2021

CONTACT INFORMATION

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NB: IDEP strongly encourages and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programme.

