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International
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MINING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

“We believe that mining can make a substantial contribution to inclusive growth and social development in communities and states, without compromising the environment, and we are actively working to achieve this goal.”

—Scott Vaughan, President and CEO, IISD





Mining can be critical to achieving the development aspirations of many developing countries and remote regions. Often, however, the local and national development benefits of mining operations have been limited, and in some cases the results have even been negative. Historically, a focus just on mining company rights and the provision of government tax benefits, while giving limited attention to environmental, social and local economic issues, has limited the sector's contribution to sustainable development.

Working to overcome these concerns, governments, companies and communities increasingly recognize the need for a broader understanding of mining's potential contribution to local and national development. Transforming this awareness into action requires building the capacity, knowledge and tools required for appropriate reform of government and company policies and processes.

OUR VISION

IISD is committed to ensuring that mining makes a substantive contribution to the economic and social development of all groups in local communities and host states—in a manner that does not compromise the natural environment now or in the future.

We envision a sector in which mining operations simultaneously maximize the short-term benefits from a temporary incursion on the environment while achieving long-term intergenerational benefits from the use of finite resources. We envision a sector in which environmental management achieves positive ecological impacts

during mining operations, and ensures full restoration of the environment when mining ends.

Achievement of this vision requires the adoption of a shared-value approach to mining development by governments, companies and communities—an approach that looks at the potential to generate benefits from more than just company taxes and dividends. It requires looking at, for example, how company expenditures on supplies of goods and services can generate in-country economic benefits and good jobs directly and indirectly, as many investors are already doing.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For more than a decade, IISD has helped governments, companies, mining associations and civil society members to identify, promote and implement policies and actions that lead to sustainable development in the mining sector.

We do so through a practical, holistic and integrated approach that builds upon our legal expertise and skills, our economic and fiscal policy capacities and our experience in integrated assessment and planning that considers social well-being, ecosystem health and economic prosperity.

We support sustainable mining in developing countries and remote regions through applied research, training and engagement. Recently, we have:

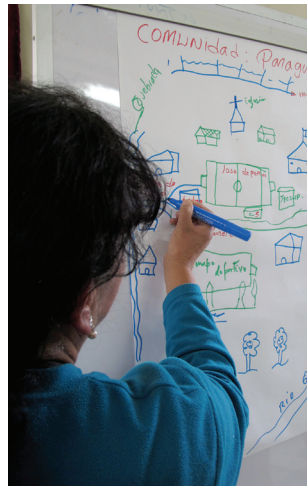
- **Trained government officials** from Asia and Africa (Anglophone and Francophone) in charge of contract negotiations with investors, improving their capacity to achieve better negotiation processes and results;
- **Supported implementation** of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development's Mining Policy Framework in the Caribbean and Africa through active collaboration with government officials to assess progress, identify areas that could be strengthened, and provide capacity building in areas such as socio-economic benefit optimization, and artisanal and small-scale mining;
- Completed, for the International Council on Mining and Metals, **ground-breaking analysis** of the impacts of carbon-focused economic instruments on the competitiveness of mining operations;
- Assessed provincial mining policies and programs for Canadian governments to determine whether they help or hinder actions to **support climate risk management** and adaptation by the mining sector; and
- Participated in the development and drafting of the International Bar Association's Model Mine Development Agreement, as well as the **development of model contracts** at the national level.



OUR EXPERTISE

IISD's Mining and Sustainable Development Initiative helps governments, communities and companies by:

- **Providing legal advice and training** that increases the capacity of developing country negotiators to fully and effectively negotiate mining contracts;
- **Assessing current laws and policies against international best practice** as articulated in policies such as the African Mining Vision and the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development's Mining Policy Framework;
- **Delivering capacity building and support** to enhance existing laws and policies and achieve increased development benefits;
- **Undertaking economic analysis** that supports all parties in planning sustainable mining investments by integrating the potential fiscal costs and benefits (subsidies and taxes) with the potential for other social and economic benefits, especially at the local level; and
- **Performing integrated assessments of social, economic and environmental development factors** that help governments, companies and communities achieve water, energy and food security, develop indicator and monitoring systems, and proactively assess and manage climate risks.



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The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) undertakes policy analysis to help governments, institutions and companies make tangible advances in the development and implementation of environmental, economic and social policies that promote equity and a healthy planet. It is an independent, non-profit organization based in Canada, with a global staff and offices located in Geneva, Winnipeg, Ottawa, New York and Beijing.

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