

Managing mining for sustainable development

A SOURCEBOOK

UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub and
Poverty-Environment Initiative Asia-Pacific
of UNDP and UN Environment

April 2018

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Foreword

Minerals and metals are essential materials for the functioning of modern societies and economies. Mining provides great economic opportunities for resource-rich countries. However, the process of mining creates challenges and risks for the well-being of people and the environment. A key challenge for these countries is to manage mining in a way that contributes to – and does not jeopardize – sustainable development.

The management of mining at all stages, from exploration to mine closure requires serious consideration of social and environmental impacts. The legal and contractual frameworks that govern mining are often made with little consideration of environmental sustainability and the well-being of affected communities. The rights of local communities and indigenous people to have a say in decisions about mining projects are often not realized. Most countries have adopted rules on environmental and social impact assessment and mine closure, but the implementation of these rules is lagging behind.

Moreover, countries and communities often do not access the full economic benefits of mining. Governments may lack the capacity to estimate returns from mining and negotiate mining taxes. Even when they do collect fiscal revenues from mining, they face challenges with the volatility of these revenues and investing these resources into sustainable development. People and local businesses may not be able to take advantage of the job opportunities and business development potential that come from mining.

This sourcebook brings together existing knowledge, experiences and tools to help equip governments and communities in resource-rich countries and regions to manage mining in

a way that is consistent with their aspirations for sustainable development. The premise of this sourcebook is that it is within the power of governments of resource-rich countries to protect people and the environment and to realize the benefits from mining, working alongside the mining industry and local communities.

Much of the available knowledge on social and environmental sustainability concerns related to mining is produced by and for the mining industry, while most available knowledge products for governments are focused on the economic governance of mining. By synthesizing knowledge on the environmental, social and economic aspects of mining in a way that is relevant for governments and communities in resource-rich countries and regions, this sourcebook fills an important gap.



Nik Sekhran
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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AETR	Average Effective Tax Rate	EPCM	Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management
AMD	Acid Mine Drainage	ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ASI	Aluminium Stewardship Initiative	FARI	Fiscal Analysis of Resource Industries
BBOP	Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme	FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
BC	Bettercoal Code	FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
BRH	Bangkok Regional Hub (of UNDP)	GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (of WTO)
CBA	Cost-Benefit Analysis	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	GHG	Greenhouse Gas
CCCMC	China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals and Chemicals Importers and Exporters	GIA	Gender Impact Assessment
CCSI	Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment	HIA	Health Impact Assessment
CDA	Community Development Agreement	HRIA	Human Rights Impact Assessment
CEA	Cumulative Environmental Assessment	IBA	Impact Benefit Agreement (Canada)
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons	ICMC	International Cyanide Management Code
CIA	Cumulative Impact Assessment	ICMM	International Council on Mining and Metals
CIRDI	Canadian International Resources and Development Institute	IFC	International Finance Corporation
CR	Corporate Responsibility	IGF	Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (Australia)	IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development

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