

Small-Scale Mining and Development Aid in Africa

Seminar



Friday, November 13, 2009

Department of Geography & Geology, University of Copenhagen

Øster Voldgade 10, Copenhagen

Time: 9:00 -15:30

Organised by: Centre for Sustainable Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining



Background

Throughout Africa, small-scale miners are growing in numbers with an estimated nine million people directly engaged in small-scale mining and around 50 million depending on the mining activities indirectly for their livelihoods. Small-scale mining can be perceived as labour-intensive mineral extraction with limited capital investments using basic equipment. While dominated by informal operators, small-scale mining is broadly recognized for its contribution to local economies. At the same time, however, it is associated with a number of adverse environmental impacts on local communities. In order for the full potential of small-scale mining to materialize, the adverse effects of the sector need to be addressed. Interest in the sector has steadily increased and during the past 15 years, small-scale mining has become the focus of concern for a number of aid agencies, NGOs, and national governments. The support efforts, however, have brought only limited results.

Seminar objectives

The objectives of this seminar are to examine the nature of small-scale mining in Africa, assess international support initiatives targeting the sector, and investigate the impediments for effective and sustainable development aid to Africa's growing small-scale mining populations. Specifically, this will be addressed through answering the following questions:

- How is small-scale mining in Africa commonly perceived, and how does this impact on development interventions that target the sector?
- What role does small-scale mining play as a provider of alternative livelihood opportunities in Africa?
- What kind of international initiatives are in place to support small-scale mining activities, while addressing the environmental adverse effects of the sector, e.g. forest clearing, mercury pollution, and soil erosion?
- Based on the experience of former support initiatives, what is the most efficient way to organize effective and sustainable support to the small-scale mining sector - in a context of informal mining practices, weak institutional structures, and miners' high degree of mobility?

Registration

Participation is free and open for anyone.

Registration **before 4 November** to Jesper Bosse Jønsson at bjj@geo.ku.dk

Please note your name, title, and institution.

Programme

- 9.00-9.15 **Welcome and introduction to small-scale mining in Africa**
Niels Fold, Centre for Sustainable Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (SASMin) & Department of Geography & Geology (DGG), University of Copenhagen
- 9.15-9.40 **Small-scale mining and the formalization challenge**
Jesper Bosse Jønsson, SASMin & DGG, University of Copenhagen
- 9.40-10.05 **Environmental impacts of small-scale mining**
Peter W. U. Appel, SASMin & The Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)
- 10.05-10.30 **Global guidelines for reduction of mercury used in small-scale gold mining**
Samuel Spiegel, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, and former Global Mercury Project
- 10.30-11.00 **Coffee Break**
- 11.00-11.25 **Conflicts between small- and large-scale mining in Tanzania and Senegal; causes, nature, and mitigation strategies**
Johanna Carstens, Projekt-consult
- 11.25-11.50 **Urban sprawl and small-scale mining of building materials**
Per Kalvig, SASMin & GEUS
- 11.50-12.20 **Questions and discussion**
- 12.20-13.20 **Lunch**
- 13.20-13.45 **DfID's experiences with supporting the small-scale mining sector**
Jon Hobbs, DfID & CASM
- 13.45-14.10 **International regulation of, and support to, Africa's artisanal diamond diggers**
Steven Van Bockstael, Central Africa Programme, Royal Institute for International Relations
- 14.10-14.35 **A Danish NGO's experience with working with the extractive industry**
Lars Koch, IBIS
- 14.35-15.00 **The way ahead for support to Africa's small-scale miners**
Gavin Hilson, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading
- 15.00-15.30 **Concluding debate**