



AAPF ACTIVITY COMPLETION BRIEF (11 March 2013)

Uranium Mining, Processing and Handling Study Tour

10 – 18 August 2012



AAPF

Australia-Africa Partnerships Facility



Activity description: During the study tour, participants met with uranium industry stakeholders from Australia and elsewhere, including representatives of government, industry bodies, statutory authorities, mining companies and community groups. Participants attended the International Atomic Energy Agency training meeting on 'Effective Regulatory and Environmental Management of Uranium Production' in Darwin and undertook site visits to operating uranium mine sites, as well as rehabilitated mine sites.

Results: Participants provided feedback via the Study Tour Participant Survey and verbally to facilitators and the AAPF. All feedback indicates that the study tour met the intended outcomes. When asked if the study tour helped to improve their understanding of the challenges for the industry in uranium exploration, mining, processing and handling, the average response across all 22 participants was a rating of 4.4/5. Throughout the study tour, participants also had constant access to a uranium expert – an element of the study tour that received very positive feedback.

Background: The study tour hosted government officials from seven countries: Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. Participants were from ministries of mines, finance and environment.

The Australian Government and African governments are collaborating through a variety of means to share mining governance experiences. The study tour is the result of this ongoing collaboration and discussions with previous study tour participants, some of whom have indicated that the mining and management of uranium and hazardous waste is a priority for their governments.

Purpose: The purpose of the Uranium Mining, Processing and Handling Study Tour was to help participants to understand:

- ☐ the total uranium mining, processing and handling chain;
- ☐ the regulatory framework required for a uranium industry;
- ☐ uranium mining safety and waste disposal policies and standards; and
- ☐ the challenges of uranium exploration, mining, processing and handling.

Participation by country and gender:

Country	M	F	Total
Botswana	3	0	3
Malawi	4	1	5
Mozambique	1	1	2
Niger	3	0	3
South Africa	4	0	4
Tanzania	2	0	2
Zambia	3	1	4
TOTAL	20	2	22

Feedback from participants: Saily Motladiile, Principal Chemist in the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism in Botswana, said: "The conference provided much needed information on the regulatory aspect of the uranium mining. As a regulator this was beneficial as I realised that it is not only Botswana that needs to improve its legislation with respect to uranium and other mining activities."

Feedback on areas for potential improvement included:

- ☐ The meeting should be more interactive, rather than participants just being fed information.
- ☐ Participants should be given an opportunity to visit regulatory bodies and see how they operate.

Next steps: During exit interviews, members of each country group reflected on the lessons learnt from the study tour and considered areas for follow-up, including further support that the AAPF could provide for the mining sector. The AAPF will work with participants for possible support of follow-up activities and keep in touch via the Australia-Africa Mining for Development website (www.australia-africa-m4g.org).

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