



Activity brief (December 2013)

Mining Governance and Africa Down Under (ADU) Study Tour to Australia 2013

18 – 30 August 2013

Background: Last year, the AAPF planned a study tour around the annual Africa Down Under (ADU) Conference in Perth, focusing on general mining governance themes. This year, under the Australian Government's aid program, the study tour was broadened to include three technical foci: mining and agriculture; taxation, financial management and public expenditure; and inspectorate functions (health safety and environment).

High-level representatives from four separate ministries (mining, agriculture, finance and infrastructure) were invited to join the study tour and participate in one of the three relevant sub-group programs.

Objective: The study tour aimed to provide government officials with:

- an overview of the governance framework applied to Australia's mining sector; and
- an opportunity to create and strengthen networks, and contribute to the Africa Australia Research Forum and the Africa Down Under (ADU) Conference.

Activity description: During the 12-day program, participants met as a group to discuss mining in Australia and provide an overview of mining governance in their home countries. In the sub-groups participants focused on their respective technical areas for four days, engaging in theoretical discussions and hands-on field trips where they had the opportunity to meet a range of relevant Australian organisations from the public and private sectors. The program also included participation in the ADU Conference.

Participants:

| Country | M | F | Total |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Botswana | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Djibouti | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Gabon | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Ghana | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Lesotho | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Liberia | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Madagascar | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Malawi | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Nigeria | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Republic of Congo | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Sierra Leone | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| South Africa | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| South Sudan | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Tanzania | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Zimbabwe | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 25 | 12 | 37 |

Participant feedback: Formal and informal feedback from participants indicated that the study tour generally met its objectives, both overall and at a sub-group level.

Participants said lessons learned could be applied in their home countries:

- "With regard to use of land and rehabilitation – we don't have that in our policies, but we should. We've got to think [about] how we coordinate all that we have. It's time now that we do an action plan. The link between mining and agriculture is new to me and we need to raise consciousness [of this link]. Lots of people are not aware that mining is a key stakeholder in agriculture." **Representative from Lesotho**
- "I learned that a policy is only as good as the person administering it. There should be little or no discretionary powers to try to reduce political interference. What amazed me was how willing mining companies were to get involved in agriculture here in Australia. I learned that if you have a solid foundation and [you are] working together, things can go well. So I will foster better coordination." **Representative from Liberia**

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