



Activity brief (December 2013)

Gold Mining and Fraud Prevention Study Tour to Australia

7 – 19 July 2013

Background: Under the AAPF, most of the early mining governance study tours to Australia were designed to give a general overview, especially relating to how it is done in Australia, lessons learned and best practices. Mining governance study tours are now being designed as the first step in a larger development assistance program, focusing on specific topics (as requested by partner countries) and to develop a more sustainable linkages program between relevant Australian and African institutions.

This study tour was the result of a request by the Burkina Faso Ministry of Mines, Quarries and Energy for the Australian Government's assistance to design and undertake a study tour to Australia focusing on gold fraud prevention. The proposal was discussed and it was decided to expand the tour to allow participants from other countries facing the same issue. The study tour was aimed at senior officials from mining ministries and government agencies focused on security and fraud prevention in the minerals sector.

Objectives:

- Provide an overview of (a) Australia's gold mining history, from its artisanal and small-scale beginnings to its currently highly industrialised and profitable status, and (b) the quality assurance of Australia's gold supply chain.
- Explore the main ways gold fraud is carried out (methods and systems) and current trends in gold stealing at different levels of the process.
- Examine Australia's system of combating gold fraud.

Activity description: During the study tour, participants engaged in theoretical discussions and hands-on field trips in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, where they had the opportunity to meet with the primary Australian organisation involved in gold mining and stealing, the Gold Stealing Detection Unit (GSDU), and also met with mining companies and toured their facilities. The program included time for participants to present to the group on their country experiences and work together in regional sessions to identify problems and challenges and lessons learned from Australia. The program also included a one-day forum hosted by the International Mining for Development Centre (IM4DC).

Participation:

Country	M	F	Total
Burkina Faso	6	0	6
Cameroon	3	0	3
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	3	0	3
Ethiopia	3	0	3
Gabon	2	1	3
Ghana	3	0	3

Niger	4	0	4
Nigeria	3	0	3
Senegal	3	0	3
South Sudan	3	0	3
Tanzania	2	1	3
TOTAL	35	2	37

Participant feedback: Participant feedback, via the Study Tour Participant Survey and verbal feedback to facilitators and the AAPF indicated that the study tour was successful and generally met its objectives. Most participants acknowledged that best practices from Australia could be adopted to improve sustainable gold mining in their home countries. The survey revealed that participants rated the overall usefulness of the tour at 4.4/5.

Activity number:	173/01
Date approved:	20/12/2012
Date commenced:	07/07/2013
Date completed:	19/07/2013
Implementation partner:	International Mining for Development Centre (IM4DC)
Total cost:	AUD 696 892