



## Activity brief (December 2014)

### Mining Governance Study Tour to Australia, including participation in the Africa Australia Research Forum and the Africa Down Under 2014

24 August – 5 September 2014

**Background:** The Australian Government often receives requests from African partner governments for assistance to build their capacity across a range of mining governance issues. Study tours are a widely used tool to respond to these requests. Evaluations of past study tours and communication with participants and partner governments indicate that thematically relevant and well-organised study tours can successfully deliver learning, development and relationship objectives.

**Objective:** The study tour had the broad objective of assisting senior African government officials to strengthen their understanding of the frameworks governing the mining industry in Australia and how these have led to improved regional development. As a partnership activity between DFAT and the Government of Western Australia, the study tour also aims to strengthen the framework for cooperation between the Government of Western Australia and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) member states.

**Activity description:** The study tour was co-hosted by the Government of Western Australia. The study tour helped to support implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in February 2014 between the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Government of Western Australia for *Cooperation in the field of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Agriculture, Vocational Training and Capacity Building*.

The MoU will be implemented through six thematic areas, including: fiscal frameworks and mineral policy; strengthening human and institutional capacities;

collection and management of geo-scientific information; research and development; environmental and social issues; and, linkages, diversification and cluster development.

During the week of field visits, participants were exposed to theoretical discussions, as well as site visits, where participants met with private sector companies, community groups. The participants visited large-scale mining operations, and interacted with local and state government departments.

**Sector:** Extractives

**Outcomes:** Participants were supported to develop links and networks with institutions, companies and individuals that they met during the study tour.

During the study tour, the relevant topics were unpacked in considerable detail, and participants were exposed to appropriate topics through both theoretical discussions and site visits.

Participants' feedback has confirmed that study tours provide helpful exposure to mining governance issues and an excellent forum to build professional relationships.

**Participating countries and organisations:** African Union Commission, Cameroon, COMESA, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa and South Sudan

**Next steps:** Participants were provided access to the M4D Link ([www.m4dlink.org](http://www.m4dlink.org)), and will be able to continue to engage in discussions about lessons learned from the study tour and connect with fellow Australian Government-funded African alumni.



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<b>Implementation partner:</b>	The Government of Western Australia
<b>Total cost:</b>	AUD 803 398