



OPEN SOCIETY
Initiative for West Africa



Online Training

FUNDAMENTALS OF NATURAL RESOURCES GOVERNANCE IN WEST AFRICA FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS, JOURNALISTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS

Duration
3 weeks

Coming soon

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Beginning of the training : 29th August 2022

Application Deadline : 12th August 2022

**FUNDAMENTALS OF NATURAL RESOURCES
GOVERNANCE IN WEST AFRICA
FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS, JOURNALISTS
AND CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS**

Call for applications

Announcement in Brief

Course Type : Online Course

Programme Area : Natural Resource Management

Date : 29th August – 16th September 2022

Duration : 3 Weeks

Language : Bilingual (French / English)

Application Deadline : 12th August, 2022



IDEP strongly encourage and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programme

Programme Rationale

Africa is endowed with abundant natural resources. In addition to its vast Agricultural resources, the continent is home to about 30 percent of the world's mineral reserves, 8 percent and 12 percent of the world's natural gas and oil reserves respectively. Specifically, the continent holds about 40 percent of global gold reserves and up to 90 percent of its chromium and platinum in addition to other minerals such as cobalt, diamonds, platinum, and uranium. Africa's extractive sector provides enormous opportunity to spur economic growth and achieve sustainable and inclusive socioeconomic development in resource endowed countries.

Cumulatively, the sector accounts for over two-thirds of the continent's exports and significant share of total government revenues and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides an avenue for job creation both directly and indirectly along its value chains. Beyond the fiscal benefits, extractive resources provide economic opportunities which when optimally exploited can broaden the economic base of resource endowed economies through efficient fiscal and regulatory framework, local content, sectoral linkages, sustainable investment of resource revenues, diversification etc.

Undoubtedly, the extractive sector plays a critical role in driving economic development. However, these benefits have failed to translate into economic transformation and shared growth of the continent resulting in economic instabilities and in some cases conflicts mainly in resource affected communities. In many instances, non-resource dependent economies have outperformed their resource rich peers in global governance and development indices such as the NRG1 Resource Governance Index pre-empting debates on perhaps the existence of the infamous "resource curse" in some resource producing economies.

Broadly, poor quality of governance of the extractive sector, characterized by corruption, rent-seeking, illicit financial flows (IFFs), weak enforcement of laws and poor citizenry oversight, has been viewed as a key factor influencing the ability of countries to ensure optimal exploitation and utilization of natural resources for sustainable development. Additionally, these challenges persist partly due to weak active citizenship and limited institutional capacity to understand and use disclosed data to demand accountability from State and private actors in the sector resulting in poor oversight of the sector.

Despite progress made with data disclosures through the adoption of and compliance to the EITI standards and other country statutory requirements, transparency is yet to translate into accountability. That is, the perceived technicality of the resource sector has alienated a greater proportion of the citizenry including civic and other non-state accountability actors from its management.

Therefore, the extractive sector has become an enclave with the exploitation and general management left in the hands of a few politicians, the private sector and (Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) who benefit from the resource wealth at the expense of national development.

Thus, an effective extractive sector that can deliver a positive impact on socioeconomic development requires a conducive and balanced environment for inclusive participation of government, private businesses as well as civil society and citizens in general. Such a strategy of planning-and-working-together requires building the capacity of stakeholders to deepen their understanding of the extractive value chain and the legal and fiscal frameworks.

The ability of oversight bodies such as Parliamentarians, officials of State accountability institutions as well as non-state accountability actors such as CSOs, media, and citizens to understand and monitor resource exploitation and use will significantly improve demand-side accountability and ultimately general accountability in the management of extractive resources for sustainable economic growth and development.

In order to play their role in building the capacities of non-state actors, IDEP and OSIWA as funding partner, have decided to jointly organize a training course on the "Fundamentals of Natural Resources Governance in West Africa for Parliamentarians, Journalists and Civil Society Members" mainly targeting CSOs, parliamentarians and journalists in West Africa.

Objectives

This course aims to build the capacity of non-state actors to better understand the challenges and instruments of natural resource governance. It will focus on the contextual data of the extractive sector as well as the policy and legal framework of the sector in West Africa. The aim is to provide stakeholders with the technical tools to consolidate their commitment and build their evidence-based advocacy.

Content

The course comprises six (6) modules including: (i) A first block that will give an overview of the mining lifecycle; Environmental and social impacts on mining projects; Linkages, investment, etc. (ii) A second block which will go deeper in Policy strategy; Regulatory and fiscal frameworks; Stakeholders and partnerships.

Skills to Be Imparted

The course consists of the following key modules:

- Describe the mining life cycle and identify the issues each stage implicates;
- Understand the potential environmental impacts, including climate change and social issues related to mining, including artisanal and small-scale mining;
- Identify opportunities and linkages the mineral sector can provide to fuel the economy of a mineral-dependent country
- Understand the fundamentals of mining policy and implementation strategies;
- Understand the extractive global governance principles and initiatives
- Understand the legal and regulatory frameworks to local contexts
- Link the principles of transparency, accountability and governance through the engagement of all stakeholders with a prior understanding of the sector.

Pedagogical approach and mode delivery

The course will be delivered during three (3) weeks with a final evaluation at the end of two first weeks including a respective score of 75% and 25% composing the final score. The last week will be dedicated to retakes. The course will be moderated asynchronously on a weekly basis and participants are required to participate in the weekly on-line discussions.

The lessons are designed in a way that learners are also able to self-assess their understanding through practical exercises which will be in the form of case studies that will support active learning. Additional resources such as bibliographies, web links and optional readings are provided for participants who wish to deepen their knowledge of the course topic.

Highly interactive approach is encouraged between resource persons and trainees and among the trainees themselves for this course.

The course will be delivered in English and French. The pedagogical team will include a Course Director with first-hand knowledge of the political, economic and social issues of Natural Resource Governance in Africa. He or she will team up with a moderator and a technical support. In line with the IDEP pedagogical philosophy, the presentation of the course modules will combine a knowledge-building component with experience-sharing among participants.

Certificate of Completion

A Certificate of Completion will be issued by IDEP to all participants who successfully complete the course-related self-assessments presented for each module.

Target Audience

The course aims at gathering civil society members, journalists, parliament members as well as youth interested in mining governance issues, accountability and policy advocacy. The course is also suitable for people from academia and public administration who want to learn more about the above issues.

Acceptance to the course

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Technical Requirements

Access to internet is an essential condition for participation. The following specifications, as a minimum in terms of hardware and software, are required to take this e-Learning course, please consult your Network Administrator or Systems person to ensure that you have the following:

- Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X; Linux
- Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space
- Software:
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader
 - Adobe Flash Player
 - Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
 - Browser: Internet Explorer 7 or higher or Firefox 36 or higher
- Modem: 56 K
- Note that JavaScript, Cookies and Pop-ups must be enabled

Important Dates

- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: **12th August 2022**
- Course Period: **29th August – 16th September 2022**

Contact Information

Training and Research Division

Tel: +221 33 829 55 00 / Fax: +221 33 822 29 64

Email: catherine.lalyre@un.org with copy to lou.zah@un.org



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