



INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM
on Mining, Minerals, Metals and
Sustainable Development

Mining Policy Framework Assessment



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WHAT IS AN MPF ASSESSMENT?

Mining Policy Framework Assessments are carried out by expert teams led by the IGF Secretariat. The assessments are demand-driven, and are undertaken with the support and participation of the country's ministry in charge of mining. They are broken into two main phases: the assessment and the targeted capacity building.

PHASE 1: ASSESSMENT

In the first phase, working closely with government counterparts, the assessment team—through a combination of desk and field research—uses the best practice standards of the MPF to identify key strengths, weaknesses and gaps in the country's existing mining laws, policies and regulations. This involves not just a comprehensive review of these key documents, but also extensive in-person consultations with key stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector, as well as mine site visits to see how laws and policies are being implemented and enforced on the ground. Once the assessment report has been drafted and validated by the government, it is published and disseminated, for use by the Government, civil society and the private sector and by IGF members for peer learning.

PHASE 2: CAPACITY BUILDING

Once the assessment team has identified key strengths, weaknesses and gaps in existing laws and policies, attention turns to targeted capacity building. In this second phase, the IGF brings a group of expert trainers to the capital to meet with key stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector. The sessions take place over the course of a week and cover topics and areas prioritized by the government. They focus on giving stakeholders the knowledge and tools they need to address key weaknesses and to improve mining sector governance.



The Mining Policy Framework sets out concrete objectives and processes for good governance in the following areas:



THE LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

A mature, modern legislative regime provides clear lines of responsibility and accountability for governments and companies, and as such is a foundation for good governance and sustainable development in all aspects of social and economic life. Is such a regime in place?



FINANCIAL BENEFIT OPTIMIZATION

Do the taxes and royalty revenues derived from exploration, mine development and production reflect the value to society of the resources mined? Are they collected and put to work in support of the sustainable development of the nation?



SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFIT OPTIMIZATION

The conversion of natural capital into human capital holds the greatest promise for sustainable outcomes from mining activities. How do existing laws and policies maximize the social and economic development contribution of the mining sector in the host country?



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The management of a country's natural resource base and ecosystems is the ongoing responsibility of any society seeking to become more sustainable, and any company seeking to act responsibly. How are a country's ecosystems and natural resources—the country's water, soil, air and biodiversity—protected and supported by existing legislation and policies?



POST-MINING TRANSITION

Are mining operations required to plan for the environmental, social and economic transitions to mine closure? And does this take place throughout the entire life cycle of the mine?



ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING

How does existing legislation and policy support artisanal and small-scale mining to maximize its contribution to local development, minimize its environmental impact, and ensure that the rights, health and security of men, women and children are protected?





BENEFITS OF THE PROCESS

An MPF Assessment can feed into an existing law and policy revision process, or provide the impetus needed to initiate one. To date, six MPF Assessments—in Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean—have been completed or are underway. Not all of these countries are actively revising their mining codes, acts and policies. But all receive a comprehensive review of their mining laws and policies, a greater understanding of how these compare to international best practice, and the knowledge and tools required to improve mining governance and further optimize the contribution that mining makes to sustainable development. It is hoped that IGF members, with support from the Secretariat, can continue to enhance the contribution that the mining sector makes to sustainable development.

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