

REPORT ON STAKEHOLDERS' VIEWS ON ARTISANAL  
AND SMALL-SCALE MINING

By

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and purpose

This report is part of the EIR process, that specifically covers small-scale mining (ASM) in relation to the overall objective of the EIR. It was prepared to identify and determine the views of the different stakeholders on the following two key issues and questions:

- ❑ What should be the role and policy of the World Bank Group (WBG) in the development of ASM?, and
- ❑ What kind or types of projects and/or activities should the WBG be undertaking or supporting in the ASM sector?

### 1.2 Approach and process

To obtain as much information and from as many sources as possible, various methods of getting information and feedback from stakeholders were resorted to by the author. These processes are as follows:

- ❑ Email information exchange and discussions
- ❑ Survey questionnaires
- ❑ Informal discussions with colleagues and small-scale miners met by chance (at the EIR Bali workshop, Ghana CASM meeting and during a personal visit to the Philippines)
- ❑ Literature searches to look into past ASM conferences/seminars, key ASM reports and relevant proceedings of the EIR workshops.

The literature search was also meant to get an idea of the current and past work and experience of the WBG in ASM but this proved difficult despite an appeal for help from the EIR team members based at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC.

The details of the results and outcome from these various processes make up the main component of the report, and are presented as separate documents for easier reference.

### 1.3 Some problems encountered and lessons learned

- ❑ The email discussion allowed fast information flow but has obviously excluded those who have no access to the electronic media.
- ❑ It is important to note that the concerns and ideas provided by some of the respondents and contributors who belong to or are identified with certain institutions do not necessarily reflect the positions of such institutions.
- ❑ The difficulty in obtaining the views of the small-scale miners is mainly due to their general lack of knowledge on the WBG as a whole. Even the miners, who were met by chance and interviewed, felt they need to know what the WBG is or does in mining before they could volunteer meaningful comments.

## 2. RESULTS, FINDINGS AND REMARKS

### 2.1 Stakeholders views on the role and policy of the WBG on ASM

#### *International institutions*

A WBG policy in ASM should be geared towards poverty reduction, which is linked with micro/macro policies and other sectors such as agriculture. It should also adopt a policy with strong national and cultural dimensions and give emphasis on country-specific and people-centred programmes. The policy direction should also ensure that proper and equal interaction between the WBG and the different stakeholders is maintained.

#### *Government sector*

The WBG should have a pro-active policy on ASM to enable it to provide expertise, finance, infrastructure and other logistical support and assistance. The policy should also support programmes that hinges on sustainability of the livelihoods for the miners, and maintain an interaction process with the different stakeholders.

#### *Academe and consultants*

The WBG should adopt a policy on ASM that is integrated into rural development policies to draw it within the wider economic and social trends; and one that fosters strong partnership with all parties involved to better address problems of replication. Hence it should be linked with the poverty reduction strategies of the countries that it serves. It should be a policy that makes a global noise but makes local actions. The WBG should have a practical policy that supports artisanal and small-scale miners to obtain full and tradable mineral rights to their mineral discoveries.

#### *Small-scale miners*

As a basic policy, the WBG should fully support the development of the ASM sectors of the developing countries. The policy should also adopt and promote the idea that the mineral resources are managed at the local level to allow small-scale miners to have better access. The WBG policy should also provide equal treatment of ASM and large-scale mining projects, including those undertaken by foreign investors.

#### *Mining companies*

The WBG should have a grassroots level based policy on ASM.

### 2.2 Stakeholders views on the projects and activities that the WBG should pursue or undertake

The views of the stakeholders on projects that the WBG should pursue, including those expressed in a number of key ASM reports and various ASM conferences are in shown in Annex-1. It does appear that each stakeholder or group have its/their own main concern or priority but there are also some commonalities and convergence of thoughts as to the practical projects or activities that the WBG should undertake or be involved in and these are enumerated below.

- ❑ ASM legislation and institutional frameworks
- ❑ Capacity building (governments, ASM associations and NGOs), including collaboration work and partnerships among the various stakeholders
- ❑ Database projects to prepare, generate, collect and disseminate information, including mineral inventories and best practices
- ❑ Research (technical and social/community concerns)
- ❑ Financing of ASM activities including revolving loan scheme
- ❑ Training and outreach programmes
- ❑ Demonstration projects including model regional showcase
- ❑ Holding of ASM conferences, workshops and seminars
- ❑ Specific projects on abatement of mercury pollution, elimination of child labour, exploitation of industrial minerals, local production of appropriate tools and equipment and reinforcement and funding of the Communities and Small-scale Mining (CASM) initiative

### **2.3 Views and recommendations expressed in ASM seminars and conferences**

- ❑ International agencies and banks should support the development of the ASM sectors of the developing countries
- ❑ Multi-lateral agencies and funding institutions work to ensure the establishment of appropriate and realistic enabling conditions based on an integrated holistic approach for the strengthening, promotion and further development of small-scale mining as both a means of livelihood and a wealth generating activity in developing countries.
- ❑ Small-scale mining be considered as important factor in tackling unemployment and in raising income levels.
- ❑ Apply an integrated approach in addressing the ASM sector.
- ❑ Donor organisations should coordinate their efforts and programmes in ASM and endeavour to create synergies in their activities with a view to establishing formal collaborative relationships, and to work together to disseminate examples of best practices and enhance better communication and cooperation
- ❑ Formalize government commitment to ASM issues and increase the profile of ASM in International Financial Organizations (IFIs) and donor agencies

### **2.4 Views expressed in key ASM reports**

- ❑ The WBG should adopt policies that recognise the economic potential of ASM and the subsistence nature of the sector and the fact that those involved generally lack of capital. Therefore, it should adopt supportive approaches that are different in dealing with large-scale mining projects.
- ❑ The policy should also promote ASM at international level so that it is rationalised and strengthened in the developing countries, where it proved vital for continued survival of communities facing draught and economic recession.
- ❑ The policy of the WBG should also focus on improving livelihoods of those involved and reducing the attendant adverse impact.
- ❑ The policy should also allow the integration of ASM to regional and local development programmes, and enable the WBG to act as a sponsor and executor of ASM developmental projects

## 2.5 Other comments from the stakeholders

- The WBG to fully define its role and policy on ASM
- The WBG to also increase its capacity and capability to better address the ASM sectors of the developing countries

## 3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The above findings reiterate the need for the WBG to support the development of the ASM sectors of the developing countries. The various stakeholders have also come up with key and important policy issues and concerns for the consideration in the EIR process in defining the policy and role of the WBG in assisting the ASM sectors of the developing countries. Similarly, practical ASM projects and activities that the WBG should be undertaking or supporting were also identified by the stakeholders.

It is therefore recommended that the EIR team should fully take into account the views of the stakeholders on ASM that are presented in this report.

## 4. ATTACHMENTS

Annex-1: Summary of stakeholders' views

Annex-2: Result of email information exchange

Annex-3: Result of questionnaire survey

Annex-4: Results of literature searches

Annex-5: ASM proceedings, Maputo EIR workshop

Annex-6: ASM proceedings, Bali EIR workshop

Annex-7: Summary of WBG projects on ASM

Annex-8: Questionnaire