

July 2016

NEWS UPDATE

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

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ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME (EGP)



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



50 YEARS

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Photo: UNDP Sierra Leone

Dear Partners and Colleagues,

Over the last two months, EGP and partners have advanced work in each of the four focus countries. We have strengthened partnerships at the regional and global level, and refined our methodologies for assessing and integrating human rights and gender equality standards and principles into environmental public administration of the mining sector.

This fourth issue of the EGP News Update highlights the results of a national capacity development and consultation workshop held in Naivasha, Kenya in May; ongoing consultations in Bogota, Colombia; contributions to the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi; collaboration with UNITAR and UNEP on a global e-course on Human Rights and Environment, and the launch of a new global GOXI e-Group on the environmental governance of mining.



Our new platform is now LIVE.

We launched a new e-group on GOXI on improving environmental governance of the mining sector within the context of the SDGs and Agenda 2030

Take action. Share your Experience

<http://goxi.org/group/egp>

Human Rights, Environment and Mining Workshop in Kenya



We organized a **capacity development workshop** and consultation on human rights in environmental public administration of the mining sector in **Naivasha, Kenya** from 18-19 May, 2016. It brought together over twenty senior representatives and experts from the Kenyan government and civil society including: the Ministry of Mining, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities, Kwale County Government, Department of Occupational Health and Safety Services, Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights, Nairobi process (NGO), Huria (NGO), and the Chamber of Mines. An expert from the UNDP Country Office in Mozambique also attended, where a similar national workshop is under preparation.

The event provided a platform for exchanging country experiences and standards that strengthen human rights, rule of law and gender equality in environmental public administration of the mining sector. Participants identified additional learning needs and policy implementation gaps for the programme to address, including opportunities for ensuring more meaningful community engagement throughout the mining cycle, and greater levels of transparency and accountability.

In addition, the workshop helped to strengthen longer-term working relationships between the government and civil society participants. Just after the workshop, the government held a coordination meeting for all Kenya participants to discuss program activities in more detail, including plans for a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of the sector.

Participants' Comments



"It gave a broader understanding of the things we have always overlooked when planning projects e.g. the human rights perspective"

"Project closure process is something I had not thought about. This will now be incorporated in our environment management and monitoring within communities"

"Previously I thought environmental management and human

Read the Report

Colombia Consultations

The EGP team organized consultations in Bogota, Colombia from 25-29 April, 2016 with government counterparts, civil society organizations and other partners to identify challenges and gaps in ensuring a **rights-based approach to environmental management of the mining sector**. These consultations have informed planned **rule of law assessment of the mining cycle** in Colombia, as well as linked **community engagement** and **partnership plans**, including with the Virtual School.



UN Environment Assembly, Nairobi, Kenya

We contributed to the second session of the [UN Environment Assembly \(UNEA\)](#) from 23-27 May, 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. UNEA is the highest level of governance on global environmental affairs in the UN system, bringing together over 2,500 delegates, including 123 ministerial participants from 174 countries, and over 600 civil society and private sector groups.

EGP used UNEA-2 to showcase our work on environment, mining, gender, and human rights; strengthen partnerships with sister agencies, governments, and civil society; and speak at a series of side events and coordination meetings on extractive industries and environmental governance.



UNEA adopted 24 resolutions, including on **Principle 10 and the Bali Guidelines** for National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, which underpin EGP work.

Global E-Course on Human Rights and the Environment

In partnership with UNITAR, UNEP and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, EGP contributed to the design and launch of a **global e-course on Human Rights for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development**.

The course aims to empower policy makers, experts, and advocates with basic concepts, tools, and examples for implementing policies and laws that protect the environment and human rights as part of broader efforts to achieve the SDGs. **The course includes EDG examples from the mining sector.**

The first session of the course runs from **13 June to 4 July 2016**, with a second session planned for fall 2016. Participants include governments and civil society experts from EGP partner countries.

For more information about the global e-course, click [here](#)

Coming Up

Over the next two months we will:

- advance **technical work in Colombia, Mongolia, Mozambique, and Kenya;**
- prepare for the **annual EGP conference being held in Stockholm, Sweden in November 2016.**



Spotlight Quote

“In recent years, the relationship between human rights and environmental protection has become clearer. A healthy environment is necessary for the enjoyment of a vast range of human rights.

In turn, the exercise of human rights, including rights of access to information, participation, and remedy, is critical for the protection of the environment. UNDP and Swedish EPA efforts to strengthen good governance in the mining sector... are of vital importance for the protection of the

environment and human rights.”

- *John Knox, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment*



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