



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW IN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: FOCUSING ON THE MINING SECTOR

A JOINT SWEDISH EPA AND UNDP PROGRAMME 2014 - 2018

This four-year Sida-funded programme responds to the challenges many developing countries face in implementing environmental policies and integrating environmental and social concerns into broader sustainable development policy making.

The programme will strengthen the environmental, gender, human rights and rule of law dimensions of public administration work in large-scale mining sectors. Working in collaboration with ministries of environment, mining, planning and finance, as well as other public and private stakeholders, the programme provides targeted support to four countries: Colombia, Kenya, Mongolia, and Mozambique.

The programme will also work at the global and regional level to strengthen south-south knowledge sharing and innovative policy approaches. It draws on the combined governance, social, environmental and extractive sector expertise of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, SEPA, the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, and partners.

Enhanced environmental governance can improve environmental outcomes

Sound environmental management is a core function of the state. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda reflects increased global awareness of the critical importance of environmental management and its link to social, economic and governance issues. Improved natural resource management – through enhanced environmental governance and strengthening of human rights and rule of law in environmental public administration – can provide multiple benefits across SDGs across countries and communities. This includes women and men living in poverty and other vulnerable groups who are highly dependent on natural resources and ecosystem services for their living, and thus affected directly by the management of natural resources.

Extractive industries focus

Growth of extractive industries can bring much-needed resources to finance social and economic development. The management of the environmental impact of these industries, however, is one of the most critical challenges many resource-dependent developing countries are facing. This is often due to weak capacities of environmental protection agencies, ministries of environment, and of States more broadly, to fulfil their mandates for governing the sector in ways that protect the environment, advance social progress, and accelerate sustainable growth. For these reasons, there is growing country demand for programmes that strengthen the environmental, human rights and rule of law dimensions of public administration work across the extractives industries sector including large-scale mining.

Targeted support to four countries

This SEPA-UNDP programme will provide technical and capacity development services to Colombia, Kenya, Mongolia and Mozambique, in coordination with environmental management projects already supporting the extractive industries sector in these countries. The programme will strengthen the environmental, gender, human rights and rule of law dimensions of public administration work in large-scale mining sectors, working with ministries of environment, mining, planning and finance, as well as other public and private stakeholders. These include Parliamentary committees working on extractives issues, regional and local administrations, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Global and regional learning activities

The programme will design and implement a range of capacity building activities at the national, regional, and global level.

The programme will ensure south-south and triangular learning, knowledge development and sharing, and strengthen communities of practitioners working on issues of environmental governance and natural resource management. Activities will include:

- Public administration capacity needs assessments for integrating environmental, gender, human rights and rule of law in extractive industry policy and management;
- E-learning modules in human rights based environmental public administration of the mining sector, and related themes, such as biodiversity, and environmental data;
- A web-based platform for south-south and triangular cooperation;
- Global and regional south-south knowledge sharing events; and
- A series of publications and studies on cutting-edge issues of environmental governance of the mining sector.

Partner profiles

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

SEPA's mission is to work for a better environment and sustainable development, in Sweden and around the world. Global environmental cooperation is important for Sweden, and since the early 1990s SEPA has been involved in various forms of development cooperation. SEPA's special area of expertise is capacity development for more efficient and effective environmental public administration, based on democracy, human rights and rule of law.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, UNDP offers global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

Contacts

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