

Communities and Small-scale Mining (CASM)
Annual General Meeting and Learning Event
September 7-10, 2003

The Yaounde Conference: Conclusions and Actions to date

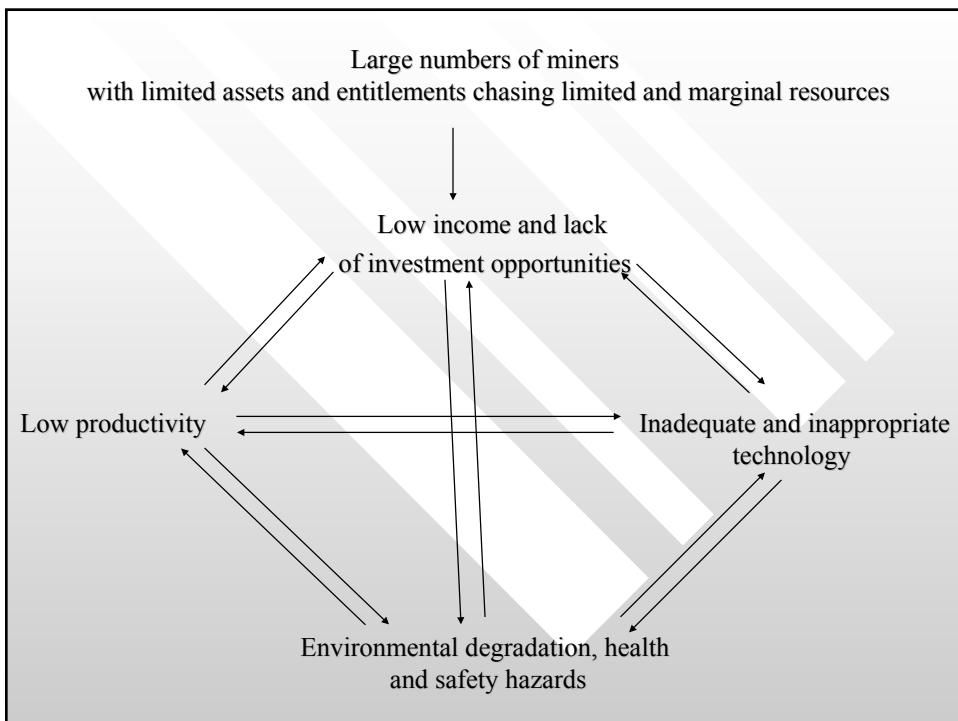
A Progress Report

What has Yaounde decided? 18-22 November 2002

- A Vision: **“Contribute to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods in a sustainable manner in African Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) communities by the year 2015 in line with the Millennium Development Goals”.**
- To link ASM with poverty reduction efforts: “ASM is a finite and poverty-driven activity facing many challenges and problems, which require novel and multi-pronged approaches to redress them.”

Challenges well understood

- Dwindling rural livelihood choices in marginal and remote regions
- Increasing number of people seeking a livelihood in ASM
- Limited resources and competing needs
- HIV/AIDS/STDs exacerbate increasing poverty
- Increasing pressure on available resources
- Inadequate legal and regulatory framework and low productivity, exacerbated by the application of rudimentary and inappropriate technology: Trapped in a poverty cycle



Target group well identified

- Permanent artisanal and small-scale miners (involved in the activity year round, mining offers higher income than other activities)
- Seasonal artisanal and small-scale miners (Regular, often life-long source of income. Savings from mining can be an important source of income for other businesses)
- Poverty-driven artisanal and small-scale miners (miners trapped in a low revenue earning cycle)
- Gold-rush artisanal and small-scale miners (lured by promises which seldom are realised. Because of lack of a long-term perspective, only few succeed).

Agreement on approaches to follow

- Offer alternative livelihoods (To open more opportunities for those who exit and those remaining)
- Improve legal and regulatory framework (To formalise ASM and to ensure security of tenure)
- Boost network of support services
- Enhance capacity of miners (To empower them)
- Provide affordable and appropriate technology options (To improve productivity and reduce impacts on the environment)

Agreement on goals/strategies

- Acknowledge and reflect the ASM sectorial issues in national legislation, and codes;
- Mainstream poverty reduction strategies into mining policy inclusive of ASM policies;
- Integrate ASM policy into the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) process with linkages to other rural sectors, and develop a strategic framework for PRSPs;
- Revisit existing thinking on ASM policies and legislation, and undertake necessary reforms of the ASM sector (e.g. traditional land rights, and modern land use legislation nexus); and
- Improve policies, institutions, processes and the ASM stakeholders' livelihood, develop partnerships, and promote sustainable use of natural resources, infrastructure development and land use management.

Who should do it?

- Governments
- IGOs
- NGOs
- CBOs
- Small-scale miners

Tasks for Governments

- Formalise government commitment to ASM
- Reform the ASM sector
- Revisit mining policies in order to assess how mining can contribute to poverty reduction
- Mainstream mining in PRSPs
- Accord higher profile to ASM and mobilise international support for the sector
- Strengthen the ASM sector (technology support, training, etc)

Tasks for International Stakeholders

- Identify and disseminate best/good practices (Pan-Africa/CASM)
- Present the Yaounde recommendations to the EIR meeting in Maputo (UNECA/UNDESA)
- Establish a Yaounde communication network (CASM)
- Identify and allocate more resources for ASM (CASM)
- Review existing baseline studies to assess relevance of Yaounde's vision (CASM and UNDESA)
- CASM AGM and Learning Event (CASM)
- Establish an inter-agency working group on HIV/AIDS in mining

What has been done

- Ministers endorsed the Vision in Cape Town (17 February 2003)
- Stakeholders met (25-27/2/2003) to discuss AMN (A network of networks including those on ASM)
- Yaounde Communication Network (A list serve) established
- Letter written to Dr Salim, Chairman of EIR emphasizing the need to mainstream mining in the PRSPs and that CASM should play a more active role in assisting policy makers to implement the Yaounde vision.
- Interest on ASM galvanised (E.G. Maputo made a strong call for more involvement of the WBG in ASM)

What has been done (Ctd)?

- World Bank launched a “Programme for Improvements to the Profiling of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Activities in Africa and the Implementation of Baseline Surveys” as part of the exercise to assess the relevance of existing baseline surveys to realizing the Yaounde vision.
- Gavin Hilson’s book on “The Socioeconomic Impacts of Artisanal and Small-scale Mining in Developing Countries” is a contribution to the body of knowledge on ASM

What has not been done?

- No systematic revision of mining policies at country level to mainstream mining into PRSPs
- No proper inclusion of mining into PRSPs (except Ghana, Mali)
- Costs and benefits of mining not properly addressed in PRSPs
- No visible change in the level of support to ASM
- HIV/AIDS and ASM inter-agency working group not established [ECA-chaired Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa (CHGA) represent hope]
- Time-bound and results oriented actions at micro-level lacking (Project URT/03/002/a/08/01“National Dialogue on the Contribution of Mining to Poverty Reduction”, Tanzania, a contribution).

Way forward

- More efforts to integrate mining in PRSPs needed
- Where relevant, revisit completed PRSP and I-PRSP (29 African countries have completed it) to better include mining (World Bank/IMF Joint Staff Assessments should be more incisive)
- Include an HIV/AIDS and ASM working group in the CHGA Research topic on “The impact of HIV/AIDS on household level poverty”
- Integrate mining in the ECA PRSP- African Learning Group
- Prepare a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Yaounde Vision by 2011(WSSD-PoI Implementation Cycles)
- Transmit decisions of Ghana to the AMP and follow-up progress