

# **Liberia: Update of the Minerals and Mining Act**

INDABA Side-Event on Attracting Responsible Mining  
Investment in Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings

Mark Mattner, GIZ  
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# Objectives

- Update 2000 Mineral and Mining Act to improve investment climate and industry regulation:
  - *Harmonization*: Bringing Law in line with evolving legal framework (e.g. environmental law)
  - *Modernization*: Sector parameters and actors changed over the last decade (few incremental changes so far)
  - *Efficiency*: Improving cooperation and division of labor of government agencies (clarifying mandates)
  - *Continuity*: Implement 2010 Minerals Policy (AMV Principles) and EITAF recommendations (World Bank)

# Challenges

- How to support Liberian-owned process that is technically sound without undermining Government?
  - Ministry of Lands Mines and Energy does not have all the requisite technical capacity
  - Conflicting interests and lack of trust between different stakeholders
  - Lack of technical understanding among stakeholder
  - History of form over substance in policy making and multiple overlapping reform initiatives
  - Lack of information and mismatch of expectations

# Process Design

- Management: MLME
  - Clear focal point within the Ministry
  - Public endorsement by principal
  - *Supported* by GIZ and World Bank
- Ownership: Inter-Agency Steering Group
  - Participation of all relevant agencies (principals)
  - Regular consultation and continuous feedback
  - No donor / embassy participation
- Technical Inputs: International & National Experts
  - Team of international and Liberian experts
  - Mixed skills and backgrounds (mining engineers & lawyers)
- Participatory process to seek inputs and validate content

# Consultations and Drafting

- ✓ **Up-country consultations**
  - 5 events covering all counties (~600 participants)
  - Transparent methodology to select participants
  - Publication of outcomes
- ✓ **Monrovia consultation workshop**
  - 200 participants, mostly Monrovia-based
  - Formal end to consultation period
- ✓ **Production of first draft**
- ✓ **Feedback on first draft**
  - 4 workshops in Monrovia (disaggregated by stakeholder group)
  - Written feedback
- **Final draft for consideration**
  - Validation exercise
  - Further feedback if necessary (TBD)

# Emerging Results

- Communities now have better understanding of mining sector and regulatory frameworks
- Companies are aware of the process & the new MMA
- Provisions in draft Act have legitimacy and are owned by all of Government (and stakeholders)
- External expertise complemented with local knowledge through consultative process
- Contribution to improving internal coordination and processes within MLME
- Government has improved understanding of capacity needs for implementation of new MMA

For further information, please contact:

- Hon. Sam Russ, Deputy Minister for Operations, Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, Republic of Liberia, [sgargar2002@yahoo.com](mailto:sgargar2002@yahoo.com)
- Mark Mattner, GIZ Project Manager, [mark.mattner@giz.de](mailto:mark.mattner@giz.de)