



Sustainable Development of the Mining Sector in Rwanda

The Challenge

The mining sector is a critical source of export revenue and foreign exchange in Rwanda. The country endeavors to become a regional mineral beneficiation hub and has increasingly positioned itself as an important part of regional value creation. In addition to enhancing due diligence in responsible sourcing, Rwanda also seeks to achieve a high degree of compliance with standards on occupational health and safety, as well as social and environmental protection. These factors are crucial for a functioning and well-governed mining sector.

Limited mining and processing skills together with low usage of modern technology are the major issues affecting the potential growth of the mining sector in Rwanda. The dominant use of simple tools leads to low productivity and weak processing of extracted materials, leaving a big percentage of minerals unrecovered in tailings as a consequence.

As a response to these challenges, Rwanda has initiated a short to medium-term education program for Mining Engineers and Geoscientists at Rwanda Polytechnic (IPRC Kigali) and at the University of Rwanda.

The Objective

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen entrepreneurship and improve the business environment and attractiveness of investment in Rwanda. Therefore, the specific objective (outcome) focuses on enabling central actors in mining in Rwanda to contribute to the economic development of the sector more efficiently and sustainably.

Project Name	Sustainable Development of the Mining Sector in Rwanda
Commissioned by	Co-funded by the European Union Delegation to Rwanda (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Budget	4.150.000 Euro
Project Country	Rwanda
Lead Executing Agency	Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB)
Duration	01.12.2022 – 30.11.2025

Our Approach

The Action aims to strengthen the contribution of the mining sector to economic and social development through a holistic, complementary, and demand-oriented capacity development approach. It builds on the achievements from a previous technical cooperation project between the German Government and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), which partly focused on responsible mineral governance in Rwanda.

To enhance efficiency and professionalization within the mining sector, a tailored set of capacity development activities addressing different challenges on different levels will be implemented. To upscale and anchor the achievements in a sustainable way, the project supports the delivery of the Bachelor of Technology in Mining Engineering (B-Tech) program at the Rutongo Mining School.

The approach includes needs assessments, development of curricula and learning materials, and training of trainers. Activities will be embedded in the system of Rwanda Polytechnic with workplace learning opportunities in mining and processing operations to ensure demand orientation. Appropriate training equipment was provided to complement the efforts.



L. to R.: Rutongo Mining School mineral display & jewellery design and training in Huye District.

Expected Results & Impact

Improved traceability of mineral flows will enable compliance with international standards.

A national mineral traceability system is being developed to digitize and enable real-time monitoring of Rwanda's mineral supply chain, ensuring compliance with OECD, EU, and ICGLR standards. A gap analysis has been conducted, and training tools are in development to raise awareness.

Substantial progress in the digitalization of mine site data and operationalization of mining sector services.

The Geological Information and Mining Cadastre System (GIMCS), in use since April 2024, is being improved for better usability and integration, with IremboPay already linked. It supports license management for mining companies and districts, aligning with Rwanda's digital governance strategy.

Future-proof training curricula for mining professionals.

The project supports the BTech curriculum in mining engineering at Rutongo Mining School (41 students) and 41 trainers completed a ToT on 5 five short course modules that they will use to train 400 unskilled miners.

Safer mining practices for everybody, including the environment.

To reduce mining's negative impact, the project is promoting OHS, social, and environmental standards. User-friendly guidelines on Environment and Occupational Health and Safety were developed to train mining actors, making the sector safer, more attractive, and a stronger contributor to economic growth.

Results Achieved Until 2025



150 people (15% female) proved increased knowledge and skills concerning ICGLR, EU & OECD guidelines.



50 (15% female) in-company trainers trained specifically on environment, health and security standards, as well as social protection matters.



41 Trainers of Trainers trained to provide gender-sensitive short-term courses related on mining operation to up to 400 unskilled miners.



100 (15% female) technical RMB staff prove increased knowledge and skills on managing and adjusting the digital mining sector services.

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