

## **WORKSHOP CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA**

### **Sustainability in West Africa's Mining Sector(s) – Political Trends, Popular Struggles and Sustainable Futures**

#### ***MIASA IFG 11 Final Conference***

**Accra-Legon (Auditorium, Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research) and Kibi (Conference Hall of Abuakwa South Municipality), Ghana, 27-28 November 2024**

#### **Aim**

The workshop aims to unite different actors from academia, business, civil society and politics to discuss the various meanings and dimensions of sustainability in/of the global mineral production system with a focus on gold mining in West Africa. It also invites a broader public to participate in discussions on the sustainable governance of large- and small-scale mining in Ghana, on the African continent and beyond.

#### **Intended Outcomes**

A cross-disciplinary and transnational lens will allow participants to exchange on current political questions of land and mineral governance in Africa. It departs from the idea that we cannot expect to transform mining economies and contexts without understanding them. Thematically and conceptually, the aim is thus to achieve a better understanding of what sustainability (e.g., in the sense of sustainable economies and ecosystems) may mean for different African actors and societies. Questions of how to achieve (more) 'just' sustainability transformations globally will be addressed, and potential pathways to make mining practices more sustainable on national and local levels identified.

#### **Background/About IFG 11**

This conference is being organized by MIASA's Interdisciplinary Fellow Group (IFG) 11, which investigates the multiple dimensions of sustainability in contexts of large and small-scale mining in West Africa. The interdisciplinary research team aims to document the initiatives and experiences of institutions in designing and implementing sustainability agendas in mining. The members are also interested in understanding policy frameworks around sustainable finance, forest reserves, water bodies and community mining initiatives in Ghana and Burkina Faso. In addition to gold, research is being conducted on the emerging policy frameworks on the extraction of lithium, as well as sustainability policy experience with salt mining. The team consists of:

Prof John Kusimi, Co-Convenor, University of Ghana

Dr Diana Ayeh, Co-Convenor, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Germany

Prof Emmanuel Ofosu-Mensah, University of Ghana

Dr Tongnoma Zongo, Member, Institut des Sciences des Sociétés (INSS), Burkina Faso

Dr Hibist Kassa, Member, University of Leicester, United Kingdom

## Preliminary Agenda

<b>Day 1 in Accra-Legon (Auditorium, Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research)</b>	
09:00-10:30	<b>Opening ceremony and key note</b>
10:30-11:00	Cocoa break
11:00-12:45	<b>Panel I: The political economy of (gold) mining, inequality and ecological crisis in West Africa</b>
12:45-13:45	Lunch Break
13:45-15:30	<b>Panel II: Can mining ever be sustainable? Interdisciplinary perspectives on the governance of extractivisms' environmental footprint</b>
15:30-16:00	Cocoa break
16:00-18:30	<b>Film screening ("No Gold for Kalsaka") and debate on sustainable practices in West Africa's extractive industries</b>
18:30-19:30	Transport to restaurant
19:30-21:30	Dinner
<b>Day 2 in Kibi/Kyebi - Conference Hall of Abuakwa South Municipality (by invitation only)</b>	
07:00-09:00	Transport to Kibi
09:00-11:00	<b>Visit of ASGM site in Kibi</b>
11:00-12:30	<b>Stakeholder engagement: Meeting with district assembly and opinion leaders, interaction with community</b>
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break in Kibi
13:30-15:00	<b>Banning, regulating or what are the alternatives? Public roundtable on the governance of ASGM in Ghana and beyond</b>
15:00-17:00	Transport to Accra

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