



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

MIASA IFG 11 Final Conference

27-28 November, 2024

University of Ghana & Kibi/Kyebi

Aim of the Conference

The conference aims at uniting different actors from academia, business, civil society and policy 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

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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 Mayimadin Kusimi, Co-Convenor, University of Ghana
Dr Diana Ayeh, Co-Convenor, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Germany
Prof Emmanuel Ababio 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



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Programme

Time is scheduled in UTC (Time in Accra/Ghana)

For online participation via Zoom (only for Day 1) please use the following link:

<https://wacren.zoom.us/j/68654371178?pwd=450lcvuWpiyZ2VAvvi1wbyDEEx0mo9.1>

Meeting ID: 686 5437 1178

Passcode: MIASA2024

Wednesday, 27 November 2024

Legon-Accra: Auditorium, Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research & via Zoom

8:00-9:00

Registration

Venue: Auditorium, Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research, University of Ghana

9:00-10:30

Opening Ceremony

Welcome remarks by MIASA Directors Grace Diabah and Mamadou Diawara

Welcome remarks by the Provost, College of Humanities, Joseph Yaro (University of Ghana)

Introductory remarks by IFG 11 Convenors

Keynote Address:

Artisanal and Large-Scale Miner Engagements in Sub-Saharan Africa: Fostering Autonomous Co-Existence

Speaker: Gavin Hilson, University of Surrey, United Kingdom

Chair:

Thomas Mba Akabzaa, University of Ghana, Ghana

10:30-11:00

Cocoa Break

11:00-12:45

Panel I: The Political Economy of (Gold) Mining, Inequality and Ecological Crisis in West Africa

Chair: Diana Ayeh, Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Germany

Discussant: Muriel Côte, University of Lund, Sweden

Speakers:

Emmanuel Ababio Oforu-Mensah, University of Ghana, Ghana

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Transformation of Artisanal Small-Scale Mining (ASM) in Ghana from Pre-Colonial to the Modern Era

Hibist Kassa, University of Leicester, Great Britain
The Crises of Social Reproduction at the Nexus of Political Economy and Political Ecology in Sites of Artisanal Mining

Alhassan Atta Quayson, University of Winneba, Ghana
Towards a Sustainable Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Sector in Ghana

Fritz Brugger, ETH Zürich, Switzerland
Unravelling the Nexus of Illicit Gold Trade, Protection Rackets, and Political Settlement Dynamics: Evidence from Burkina Faso

12:45-13:45 Lunch Break

13:45-15:30 **Panel II: Can Mining ever be Sustainable? Multidisciplinary Perspectives on the Governance of Extractivism's Environmental Footprint**

Chair: John Mayimadin Kusimi, University of Ghana

Discussant: Sylvie Capitant, Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France

Speakers:

Kgothatso Nhlengetwa, Imbokodo Mining Services, South Africa

Why it's Important to Draw a Distinction Between Illegal Mining and Informal Mining in South Africa

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

Understanding the Underside of Promoting Responsible Artisanal Gold Mining in Burkina Faso

Mouhamadou Lamine Diallo, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal

Senegal's Mining Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals: An Analysis Based on the Situation of Gold Mines in the Country's Southeast

Emmanuel Tenkorang, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
Mining and Sustainable Development in Ghana: An Exploration of the Nuances

15:30-16:00 Cocoa Break

16:00-18:30 **Film NO GOLD FOR KALSAKA and Debate on Sustainable Practices in West Africa's Extractive Industries**

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Moderation: Bettina Engels, Freie Universität (FU) Berlin,
Germany

Speakers:

Michel K. Zongo (Diam Production, Burkina Faso)

Mamadou Lamarana Diallo (Action Mines Guinée, Guinea)

Flurina Graf Ackah (The Competence Centre Mining and
Mineral Resources West Africa, Delegation of German
Industry & Commerce in Ghana – AHK, Ghana)

Lucie Kabre (Association des femmes du secteur Minier au
Burkina Faso - AFEMIB, Burkina Faso)

19:00

Conference Dinner

By invitation only

Thursday, 28 November 2024

Kibi/Kyebi - Conference Hall of Abuakwa South Municipality (by invitation only)

- 7:00 – 9:00** **Transport to Kibi**
- 9:00-11:00** **Visit of ASGM site in Kibi**
- 11:00–12:30** **Stakeholder Engagement: Meeting with district assembly and opinion leaders, interaction with community**
- 12:30–13:30** **Lunch Break in Kibi**
- 13:30-15:00** **Banning, Regulating or what are the Alternatives? Public Roundtable on the Governance of ASGM in Ghana and Beyond**
- Moderation:** Emmanuel Tenkorang, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
- 15:00-17:00** **Transport to Accra**

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