



Netherlands Commission for
Environmental Assessment

Community of Practice on the governance of minerals production

Introduction

In June 2025, the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) released a study '[Mineral Resource Governance in the Global Energy Transition](#)'. The research drew on interviews with stakeholders from mineral-producing countries from Africa, Latin America and Asia. It asked these interviewees what opportunities and challenges they see for their countries as the global demand for minerals rises.

One of the findings from these interviews was that supplier countries see on-the-job learning as a way to improve evidence-based and inclusive decision-making, enabling them to improve their mineral resources governance. Following this study's publication, the NCEA initiated the establishment of a Community of Practice (CoP) together with other international actors that are involved in similar kinds of governance support.

The CoP is composed of individuals (not organisations) who collaboratively craft narratives that inspire their daily work*, help to find synergies with fellow participants and to better define their role. These narratives may serve as a catalyst for members to initiate dialogues within their own organisations and on broader international platforms. The CoP itself does not create external outputs, but there is a possibility that joint activities will spin off.

The other page of this brochure shows a snapshot of typical questions arising in the CoP.

*Currently, individuals working at the Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), the Intergovernmental Forum for Mining and Minerals (IGF), the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA), Chatham House, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), and the NCEA are participating in the CoP.

Examples of questions arising in the CoP

1) What common challenges do mineral-producing countries encounter in governing their mining sectors?

How do resource-rich low- and middle-income countries balance rising mineral demand with their long-term national goals? In the public domain: how do civil servants navigate often-fragmented governance structures to set policies, regulate licenses, and align mining with national priorities? How, in the private domain, do mining companies, investors, and service providers shape investment, operations and market outcomes? And how are these efforts perceived by communities and other stakeholders – and how do these perceptions shape public opinion? How can these dynamics be understood? How can perspectives be aligned to support legitimate decision-making? How can short-term production be balanced with long-term development priorities?

2) What is the importance of on-the-job learning (public) governance?

What makes learning-by-doing fit this context? What role does it play in creating safe spaces where joint reflection can take place? What are the takeaways of learning-by-doing trajectories? Is it the enhancement of personal insights and skills that makes it work? Is it the value in bringing together diverse stakeholders in a safe environment?

3) How can actor networks in a country organise their own on-the-job learning?

In mineral producing countries, there may be extant networks of actors who already learn by doing in safe spaces. What can we learn from them? How do they structure their learning? What enables them to spend time and resources on new ways of collaborating and coordinating? Do they make official arrangements, or does it remain informal?

4) How can a third-party contribute to on-the-job learning in producing countries?

What - if anything - can external third parties do to facilitate this learning by doing? What makes some organizations more fit than others? How do different stakeholders in supplying countries value that support? What do these third parties need themselves to enable them to do this properly? Can this be seen as (knowledge) diplomacy? How would that relate to other modalities of supporting producing countries, like standard-setting, trade deals of mutual benefit, and financial support?

More information

The NCEA currently facilitates this CoP with online workshops and other exchanges. For more information, please contact the NCEA!

Yumika Yamada
Strategic Advisor

yyamada@eia.nl



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