

Mining in Rwanda



Modernizing artisanal mining will be better for the miners and better for the catchment

Mining in the catchment

Mining is the second largest exporter of Rwanda in 2014 the sector generated about \$210.6 Million of foreign exchange. You have private mine companies that have access to technology and finance. The largest group is that of small scale mining (artisanal) is around 80% of the mining activities. Cooperative miners work as individuals or can work with 50- 100 people. There is also a group of illegal mines.

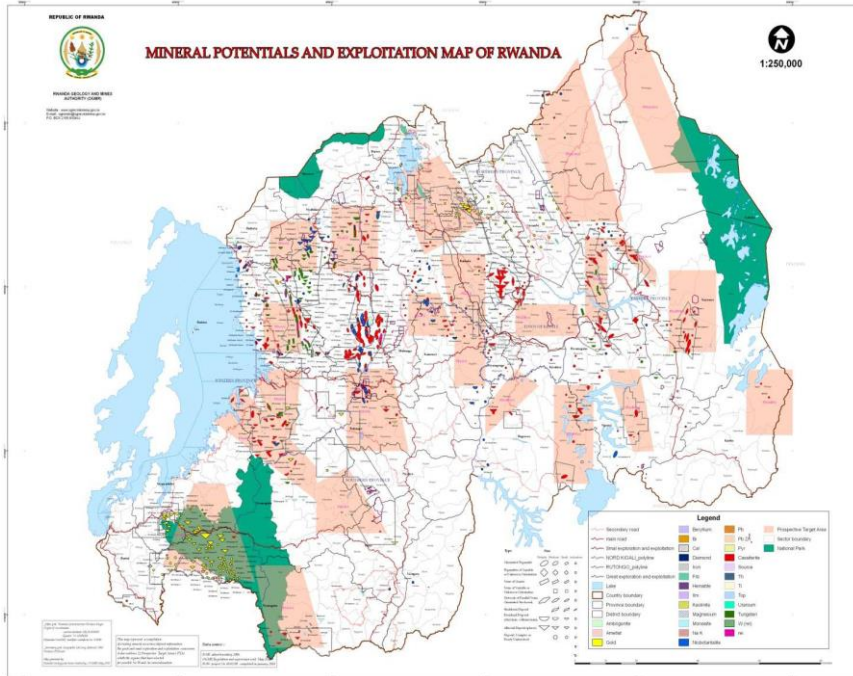
The mining sector provides income and employment to approximately 50,000 people (16% of which are women); 14,000 people are employed in quarries; 773 sites are under exploration and/or exploitation. There are 369 active mining sites, operated by 259 companies; 36 companies are dealing in mineral processing and exporting. A new draft mining and minerals policy was developed (2015). Focus is on environment, social, environment, growth, employment, productivity.

All catchments have some form of mining (minerals, quarries, sand, gravel and stones for construction from the riverbed) within their boundaries. Mining cannot be looked at in isolation of the rest of the catchment. Mining affects the water cycle through the water it uses and by damaging the forest cover, riverbed, or landscape increasing erosion and contaminating the water by minerals and the chemicals used in processing the minerals. Environmental costs should be included in economic analysis. considering that contamination can extend far beyond the life of the mine. These cost become public cost for taxpayers when the original mining company has moved out or does not exist anymore. Mitigation plans of environmental costs should be factored in in designing the business case including the management of abandoned mining sites (re forestation). It is observed that mining in the mountains has different characteristics from mining in the riverbed.



Sustainable mining: the model mines

Model mines is a concept coming from the EDPRS: currently 2 mines function as model mines and 25 more model mines are under development. This model includes elements of Corporate Social Responsibility, Protection of environment, and labour conditions. Supporting the artisanal mining can have a large impact on improving the water quality of the catchment. Experiences exist of organizing artisanal miners into cooperatives which gives the miners access to loans and better technology and skills (ref. Forest of Hope in Qhiswati forest). The GoR is looking for new ways to develop the artisanal mining.



Ongoing initiatives to support mining:

- DFID programme in 2017 -2020 to support mining sector Supporting Sustainable Artisanal Mining in Rwanda (SSAMIR). The SSAMIR programme (three years) promotes economically and environmentally sustainable growth of Rwanda’s mining sector. Improve livelihoods of poor miners and increase the contribution of artisanal and small scale mining sector to the economy by addressing key market failures facing the mining industry. This will benefit directly 5,000 artisanal miners and their families. this contributes towards our MDGs by reducing poverty. Budget 887.000 Pounds SSAMIR will support an enabling environment for private sector investment in Rwandan mining and pilot new mining services aggregation centers. The idea is to group the mines in so called mining districts to jointly invest in equipment for processing.
- GIZ supports the mining sector at national level and with policy development. They give trainings. Activities are part of a regional GIZ programme (link)
- The World Bank has a special investment fund for mining accessible for the mining companies
- The mining cooperatives lack the conditions to access commercial funding.

The government is looking for new ways to develop the artisanal mining.

Avenue for action

It is important to develop a support programme for the cooperative mines. First step is to select some specific mines in a catchment.

Miners in the Upper Nyabarongo were already asked by the government to improve their operations in 10 months (The miners lack capacity to respond to this demand so probably nothing will happen unless

facilitation can be organized). A combined effort of IWRMD and Geology and Mines to address the situation. A first activity could be a joint analysis stakeholder meeting to understand the context.

- 1) Agree with Mines department and IWRM department to explore possibility to address water contamination by mines
- 2) Select an accessible organized cooperative. Contact the corresponding district authorities and involve the miners association.
- 3) Organize a meeting with the mine(s) and explain the purpose and
- 4) Organize a broader stakeholder meeting to map in detail the relation between mines and water management in the catchment.
- 5) Map the costs benefits that occur up and downstream
- 6) Devise a plan that connects the benefits of the miners with the benefits in the catchment (improved organization, access to finance for investments, practices to avoid/reduce/mitigate contamination of the catchment)
- 7) Monitor- learn -communicate

References:

Project examples

1. Model mines template (???)
2. DFID SSAMIR project (website not yet available)
3. Approaches for sustainable mining projects by private sector :
<http://www.fonerwa.org/portfolio/responsible-mining-sustainable-mining-production>
4. <http://www.fonerwa.org/portfolio/rushashi-environmental-friendly-mining-project-refmp>

Basic information:

1. Video artisanal mining and gender in Rwanda: Evert Vermeer stichting.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-d35YXkPE0>
2. Article on small scale mining cooperatives in Rwanda.
<http://www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/bisa-africa/files/bisa-isa-perks.pdf>
3. Green development and climate resilience strategy: Introductory document on how to improve water management and reduce contamination.
http://www.rema.gov.rw/fileadmin/templates/Documents/rema_doc/rgg_crs2011/Mining_SWP_final_proofed.pdf
4. Best practices small scale mining in Africa (no case for Rwanda): UN economic mission for Africa.
http://www.africaminingvision.org/amv_resources/AMV/Compendium%20on_best_practices_in_%20smallscale%20.pdf

Laws and regulations:

1. Mining law and regulation: <http://www.minirena.gov.rw/index.php?id=176>
2. Environmental Assessment Regulation Mining:

http://www.rema.gov.rw/fileadmin/templates/Documents/rema_doc/EIA/EIA%20Guidlines/EIA-Guidelines-Mining-Rwanda%20-Finalsubmitted2.pdf