Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

On behalf of

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Extractives and Development Newsletter

Information on current topics and trends in the extractives sector
A service of GIZ project Extractives and Development

Dear readers,

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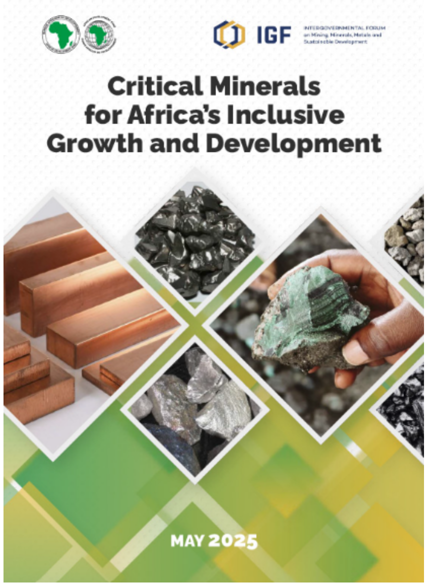
Welcome to a new issue of our extractives newsletter!

With our newsletter, the GIZ Sector Programme "Extractives and Development" sends you a selection of articles and links that may be of interest to you. We would like to inform you about key developments in the sector and draw your attention to new findings. If you find additional topics interesting or have event information for us, please do not hesitate to let us know so that we can include them in our newsletter!

Sincerely,
Your GIZ Sector Programme "Extractives and Development"

New IGF Report: Critical Minerals for Africa’s Inclusive Growth and Development

Critical minerals are central to discussions about manufacturing and the energy transition, but what makes a mineral "critical"? The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) and the African Development Bank published a paper to assess the idea of "criticality" and the diverse approaches countries take in their assessments. In Africa, which holds about 30% of the world's mineral reserves, "critical" is often used to facilitate economic diversification and industrial development. The region's reserves give it many opportunities for value creation, but also high risks from economic vulnerabilities and dependencies. This paper emphasizes the need for international cooperation, infrastructure development, access to new technologies, and stable, inclusive, and fair governance frameworks.



© IGF

Read the report here

EPRM Supports Holistic Due Diligence Framework for Energy Transition Minerals

The European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM), along with other organizations and initiatives, supports the Holistic Due Diligence Framework for Energy Transition Minerals which addresses responsible sourcing and sustainability in mineral supply chains. With a focus on supporting upstream mining and digitizing information from mineral trade actors, the project helps small mining operators access formal markets and banking services. It also creates greater transparency in the industry and ensures benefits for local communities through a streamlined process for risk management, due diligence, and reporting. In its journey to support local mining operators, the project has already assessed 120 operators and monitored 90 mine sites.

Learn more

New Fact Sheet on Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Formalisation


Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Formalisation: A German Development Cooperation Perspective and Beyond

Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Formalisation

A German Development Cooperation Perspective and Beyond

Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) remains a relevant topic for international cooperation efforts for two main reasons: the sector's role in supplying essential raw materials like cobalt and lithium for the energy and mobility transitions, and the fact that it often operates in conflict zones, raising issues of due diligence and ethical sourcing. Within this context, the formalisation of the ASM sector is gaining importance. This fact sheet summarises the key learnings from a study commissioned by the BMZ-commissioned GIZ Sector Programme "Extractives and Development". It outlines Germany's development cooperation commitment to ASM formalisation, and offers recommendations for advancing the formalisation agenda, drawing on interviews, literature reviews, and project document analysis.

Defining ASM

The ASM sector refers to mining operations characterised by a low level of mechanisation, minimal capital investment, and labour-intensive methods, often conducted on a small production scale.

In 2012, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) offered a definition to distinguish ASM from other mining activities: „formal or informal mining operations with predominantly simplified forms of exploration, extraction, processing, and transportation. ASM is normally low capital intensive and uses high labour-intensive technology. ASM can include men and women working on an individual basis as well as those working in family groups, in partnership, or as members of cooperatives or other types of legal associations and enterprises involving hundreds or even thousands of miners."[1]

While ASM is a critical economic activity for millions, it faces significant challenges, including informality, environmental degradation, and poor health and safety conditions. The sector is also often linked to violent conflicts over valuable mineral resources. Formalising ASM is viewed as a key strategy to harness its economic potential while addressing its associated risks.

According to the last annual State of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Sector report 2023, ASM is the primary source of employment for at least 44,67 million people, of which 13,4 million are women across 80 countries worldwide[2].

Formalisation of ASM

The goal of formalisation is to make ASM more sustainable, equitable, and beneficial for the miners, their communities, and the broader economy. It involves a range of activities including legal recognition and licensing, improving labour conditions and safety standards, promoting environmentally friendly practices and enhancing social responsibility. Formalisation efforts also address issues such as child labour, gender equity, and community impacts through technical support and training. These efforts might include informing miners on safer techniques, more sustainable methods, and facilitating their access to formal markets for selling minerals. The latter helps miners obtain fair prices for their products and reinvest in their operations. Access to credit or financial services is also crucial in order to facilitate establishing their businesses.
By organising miners into cooperatives or associations, formalisation can also enhance collective bargaining power and access to resources.

The terms „legalisation" and „formalisation" are often used interchangeably but represent different concepts. Legalisation refers specifically to the legal recognition of ASM operations, while formalisation is a broader process that includes integrating ASM into the formal economy, improving market access, and ensuring sustainability.

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GIZ Sector Programme "Extractives and Development" recently published a fact sheet commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) formalisation. ASM is often characterized as a vital economic activity, but also one full of risks due to its informal nature and the lack of governance and proper safety regulations. The fact sheet draws on interviews, literature reviews, and project document analysis to recommend more financial support, new licensing systems, and reliable market access to facilitate greater formalisation for ASM.

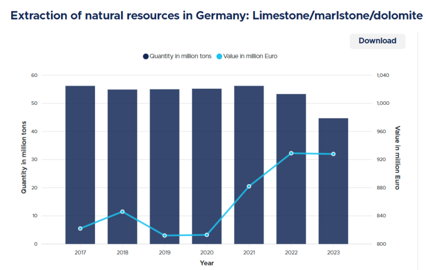
Access the fact sheet

RMI+: How Transparent Are Mining Companies About Their Sustainability-Related Activities?

© BGR

The Responsible Mining Index (RMI+) 2025 has been published and assesses 25 of the largest mining companies in the world. This RMI+ edition, supported by the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), found a rise in the number of commitments to ESG in the mining sector. However, the report also found that few actions translate these commitments into actions. This discrepancy creates a "commitment-effectiveness gap in ESG transparency" and shows areas that require greater improvement.

D-EITI: New Data Portal for Germany's Raw Material Sector



© D-EITI

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Germany (D-EITI) has launched a new interactive data portal that makes key information about Germany's raw materials sector easier to explore, analyze, and understand — all in an open data format. From production volumes and tax revenues to employment figures, complex datasets are now presented in a more transparent and accessible way for the public, policymakers, and researchers.

Discover the new Data Portal on the D-EITI Website

Initiative Towards More Transparency: Chile Joins the EITI

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) approved Chile to become its 55th member. This marks an important step for Chile and signals both the importance of its role in the extractive sector as well as its commitment to responsible natural resource management. Chile has been one of the largest copper producers since the 1980s and is now the second-largest lithium producer. In this step towards good governance, the country also demonstrates a level of stability that will encourage investments in this sector.

EU Commission Launches New Platform to Enhance Transparency in Mineral Supply Chains

The EU Directorate-General for Trade (DG TRADE) launched a new transparency tool for minerals. ReMIS (Responsible Mineral Information System) is a tool to share due diligence policies and initiatives for responsible mineral resourcing. Participation is voluntary and is intended to create more transparency as part of the EU policy on responsible resourcing of minerals.

Learn more

From Global Forum to Local Change: Patricia Rabanye Turns Civil Society Voices into Action for South-African Mining Communities

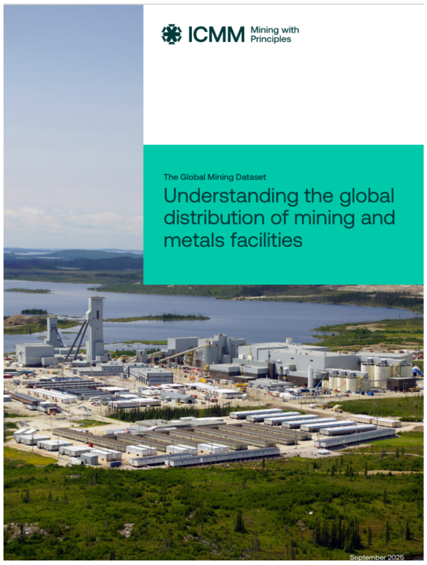
In 2024, GIZ Sector Programme “Extractives and Development” invited Patricia Rabanye from the South African civil society organisation MACUA/WAMUA to speak on a panel at the OECD Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains in Paris. One year later, we followed up to discuss her perceptions about the impact of her participation as well as the ongoing struggles mining-affected communities and women in South Africa face.

© Patricia Rabanye/GIZ

Read the full interview

New Global Mining Dataset by ICMM: Understanding the Global Distribution of Mining and Metal Facilities

Although the demand for critical minerals surges, the industry continues to suffer from a lack of reliable and standardized data. The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) has set out to change this through a new initiative that gathers data in a transparent and centralized way. Through collaboration with partners and firms, ICMM plans to establish a credible information source for the mining industry. The resulting Global Mining Dataset is in the preliminary stages of the project, but it has already identified 15,188 facilities that produce 47 different primary commodities.



© ICMM

Access the dataset

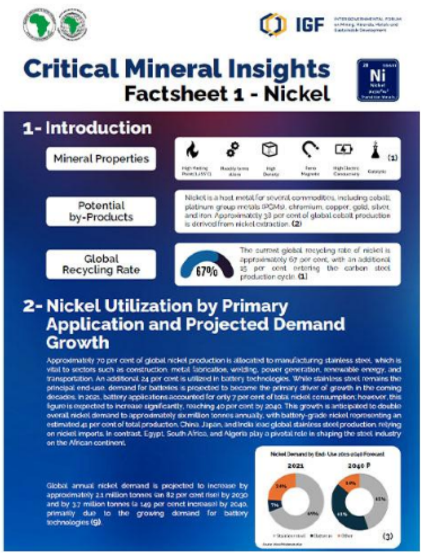
Identifying Dependencies and Vulnerabilities: OECD Maps the Semiconductor Value Chain

© OECD

The OECD published a new policy paper on *Mapping the Semiconductor Value Chain: Working Towards Identifying Dependencies and Vulnerabilities*. Given the complexity of semiconductor value chains, the paper used UN Comtrade data to explore trade dependencies in this industry. Roughly half of intermediate inputs are sourced from within the industry, which shows an increase in intra-industry dependency. Building these observations with UN Comtrade data demonstrates how deeply interconnected and vulnerable the industry is. These are important observations for policymakers to consider to then build greater resilience in the semiconductor value chain.

Access the policy paper

New IGF Case Study: Strategic Minerals for Africa’s Industry

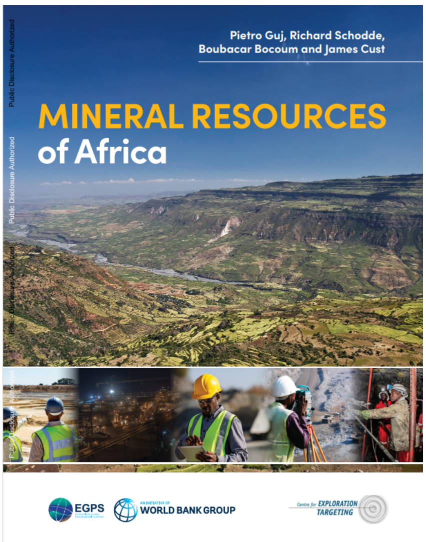


© IGF

IGF published a series of Critical Mineral Insight Factsheets to highlight information about nickel, graphite, cobalt, lithium, and bauxite in Africa. Each factsheet creates a mineral profile, including properties, demand, outlooks, and global recycling, as well as Africa’s share of the market. They also include an assessment of trade and market risks, and an analysis of potential social and environmental challenges to the industry. Taken altogether, these factsheets offer valuable insights into the markets and social, environmental, and economic dynamics for each mineral.

Access the case story

World Bank Releases Document on Mineral Resources of Africa



© World Bank

In the World Bank’s *Mineral Resources of Africa*, the book connects a wider audience with the latest information on 1,888 significant mineral deposits located throughout Africa. Using data from MinEx Consulting’s Global Mineral Deposits database, the review categorises deposits by size, quality, potential gross mine value, and profitability potential. With this information, the authors then propose future exploration strategies to assist mining industry professionals, governments, and researchers in their work within this industry.

Access the document

Mercedes Benz Launches Guide to Mining and Supply Chain Standards

Mercedes Benz has released a set of guidelines to improve its due diligence tools. The new guidelines, which include research up to July 2024, tried to incorporate the view of groups directly affected by the industry and expand the criterion for stakeholder inclusion. The guidelines include categories of complaint mechanisms, transparency, and intensity of audits among other topics. They also provide an overview of the initiatives that Mercedes Benz participates in, such as the Copper Mark, Responsible Steel, and the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA).

© Mercedes Benz

Access the guide

IRMA and CCCMC Sign Memorandum of Understanding

The Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) and the China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters (CCCMC) have entered a new collaboration to pursue responsible mining. At the International Forum on Sustainable Mineral Supply Chains in Xiamen, the two signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on responsible mineral production. This marks a step forward in pursuing transparency and accountability across mineral value chains.

The new agreement will include measures to:

- Align standards
- Pilot co-audits
- Offer joint training
- Exchange lessons on grievance mechanisms
- Foster ongoing dialogue in response to global trends and stakeholder needs

Learn more

European Commission Publishes Strategic Foresight Report

The European Commission released its *2025 Strategic Foresight Report*, which intends to provide strategic foresight at a time of global turbulence. The report identifies the central role of critical raw materials in the EU's strategic sectors, as well as current risks from supply chain dependencies. As a result, it further highlights a need to strengthen circularity in the EU and strengthen domestic critical raw material extraction, manufacturing, and recycling capabilities. At the same time, the EU should increase partnerships with other countries and develop non-fossil substitutions of critical raw materials. Economic competitiveness and strategic autonomy present one of the greatest EU-specific challenges, and ensuring stability and resilience of the EU's strategic sector supply chains is key.

© European Commission

Read the full report

EU Prepares 'RESourceEU' Plan to Secure Critical Metals and Strengthen Global Supply Chains

Brussels is preparing to present its 'RESourceEU' initiative before the end of the year, aiming to strengthen Europe's resilience in securing critical minerals. Unveiled by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the plan focuses on boosting trade with trusted partners, expanding domestic mining and refining, and building joint stockpiles. The move comes amid growing concerns over global supply chain vulnerabilities for strategically important raw materials.

Learn more

Past Events

New York Climate Week

From September 21–28, 2025, New York City hosted the world's largest climate gathering outside COP. At the conference, there was a focus on raw materials in relation to the Just Transition, renewable energies, and reduced CO_2 emissions in industry. Discussions included producer country perspectives, environmental risks, local value creation, and fair contracts with purchasing countries. These sessions demonstrated that regional integration and cooperation can strengthen the extractive industries in producing countries.

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However, there were several recurring challenges across many sessions on the future of raw materials. These included questions about who bears the costs for sustainable supply chains and how to create incentives to comply with voluntary standards. These questions came to the forefront for discussions on AI, including water resources and management for data centres, which are often built in high-risk areas. Many questions remain unresolved, but they highlight an increasing interest in raw materials.

Finally, the conference marked the launch of the Beta Release of GBA's Battery Passport Benchmarks.

Access the Beta Release of GBA's Battery Benchmarks

Second In-Person Workshop and Technical Tour of the Lithium Innovation Forum

Within the framework of the "Permanent Technical Dialogue Forum on Innovation, Technological Development, and Value Addition in Lithium in the countries of the Lithium Triangle and Mexico", the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Chilean Economic Development Agency (CORFO) and the GIZ Project "Raw Materials for a Just Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean (MinJust)" organized the second workshop on August 26–27, 2025, in Santiago, Chile. The Forum was financed by BMZ and the European Union.

The event fostered the exchange of knowledge and best practices regarding technological development in lithium, brine monitoring and community engagement, and the efficient use of water and energy. It promoted regional collaboration in lithium extraction and value addition. The participants included representatives of institutions from Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and Mexico.

Mercedes Benz Sustainability Dialogue

On October 16, 2025, the 16th Sustainability Dialogue was held at the Mercedes Benz headquarters in Untertürkheim. The auto manufacturer invited international members from the private sector, civil society, journalists, and the public sector to attend. In addition to the presentation of new environmentally friendly technologies and material alternatives, such as examples of ever more efficient e-mobility and recycling processes, the event also included a panel discussion on the company and its partners' efforts and results in terms of sustainability. In the afternoon, the participants engaged in interactive break-out discussions on the topic of promoting responsible artisanal and small-scale mining. After a final Q&A session with CEO Ola Källenius, which primarily covered the future of e-mobility, opportunities and risks, as well as global developments, the results of the latest research on "Tomorrow XX" were then presented in a smaller group in the evening.

IGF Annual General Meeting

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From November 3-5, 2025, the 21st Annual General Meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) took place in Geneva. Over three days, representatives of international governments, organisations and companies discussed how value can be created beyond extraction and how to rethink mining for a resilient future. Sector Programme "Extractives and Development" was represented in sessions on the topics of "Lessons Learnt from Local Content in Mineral Value Chains", "Critical Minerals, Critical Choices: Curbing Risks and Adding Value" and "Legal Tools for Gender Equality in Critical Mineral Governance".

However, The European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM) signed the Women's Rights and Mining (WRM) stakeholder statement on gender-responsive due diligence in mineral supply chains.

Upcoming Events

GIZ Side Event to the EU Raw Materials Week 2025

November 18, 2025, Brussels

On November 18, 2025, 13:00–16:00 CET, GIZ will host a side event to the EU Raw Materials Week in Brussels at Royal Flemish Theatre (5 min. walk from Le Plaza Hotel). Under the motto “Towards a responsible and resilient raw materials future” we will explore together with partners from governments, industry, academia, policy, and civil society how EU Raw Materials Diplomacy can deliver security of supply and sustainable economic development in resource-rich countries.
Agenda highlights:

- Opening - 13:00 CET: Opening remarks by Lucia de Carlo, Head of Department, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

- Session 1 - 13:10 CET: (Re)defining Raw Material Security, balancing EU supply needs with shared development goals

- Session 2 - 14:30 CET: Ukraine’s raw materials potential, geopolitical significance & opportunities for resilient CRM supply chains

Click here to register
To participate, you do not need to be registered for the EU Commission’s Raw Materials Week.

EITI Board Meeting 2025

November 19-20, 2025, Yerevan

From Novemebr 19-20, 2025, the EITI Board Meeting will take place in Yerevan. GIZ Sector Programme "Extractives and Development" will participate.

More information: **EITI Board Meetings**

GBA Annual Meeting 2025

December 08-11, 2025, Brussels

From December 08 - 11, 2025, the Annual Meeting of the Global Battery Alliance for responsible battery value chains will take place in Brussels. GIZ Sector Programme "Extractives and Development" will also participate.

More information: **Global Battery Alliance**

GIZ at the Mining Indaba 2026

February 09-12, 2026 Cape Town

On February 9, 2026, GIZ Sector Programme “Extractives and Development” will host a panel discussion from 1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. at Mining Indaba. The focus will be on how international cooperation can bridge the gap between European regulatory frameworks and mineral producing countries' realities in the raw materials sector. As part of the session, the new study "Implementing EU due diligence regulation in mineral-producing countries: A needs and gap analysis" will be presented.

On February 12, 2026, GIZ Sector Programme "Extractives and Development" will also host a side-event. It will consist of further presentations and discussions around findings from GIZ-commissioned studies (including the impact of EITI implementation on the investment climate and governance indicators in top-performing EITI member states) and also serve as an outreach event to prospective future EITI member states.

Furthermore, GIZ Sector Programme "Extractives and Development" will participate in an IGF session on battery and copper supply chains in Zambia and the DRC. There, the results of GIZ's study on Zambia's copper supply chains and local value addition will be presented. Further information will follow.

As in previous years, GIZ Sector Programme "Extractives and Development" will sponsor two participants of the LEAD Programme, which will take place one week before Mining Indaba. Young leaders will have the opportunity to participate in the conference. The LEAD Programme aims to skill the next generation of leaders in the extractives sector.

Did you know...?

... that new urban mining efforts are looking at the extraction of rare earth elements (REEs) from coal ash? Coal ash possesses a significant amount of REEs, which is why researchers are investigating new opportunities and technologies to extract REEs from coal and coal ash. Some researchers anticipate that coal ash could potentially yield 312,000 tons of REEs annually and facilitate the recovery of REEs in a circular economy model.

Source

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