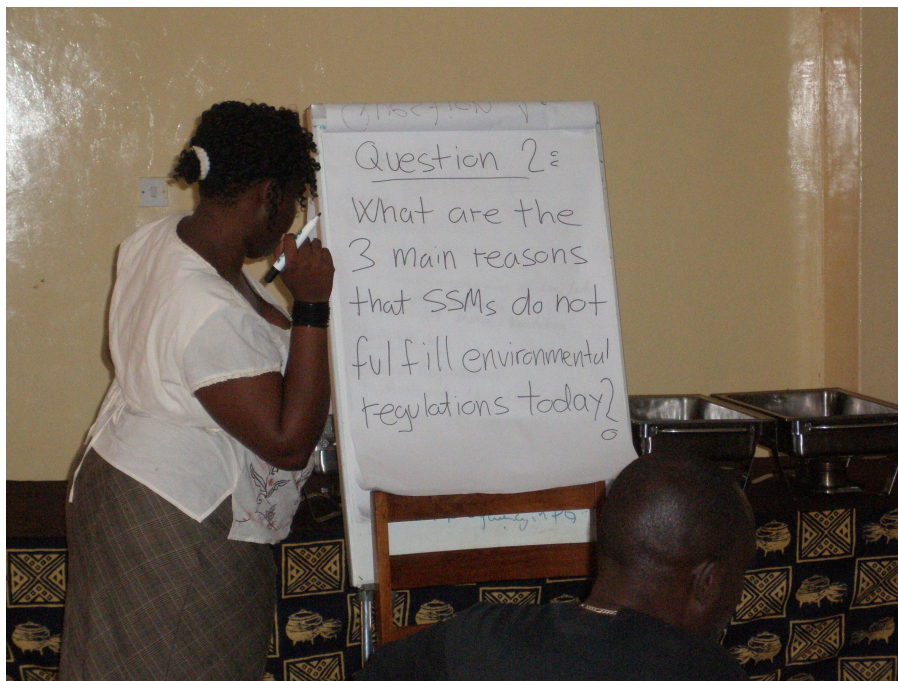




PanAfGeo

PanAfGeo Training on Artisanal & Small-Scale Mining To Take Place in Zambia

A knowledge-based step towards a sustainable future of mining in Zambia





PanAfGeo is hosting a seminar on Artisanal & Small-Scale Mining (ASM) in Lusaka 19-22 March at: Southern Sun Ridgeway Hotel, Cnr. Church Road and Independence Ave, Lusaka 10101

Official opening by Hon. Richard Musukwa

Hon. Richard Musukwa, Minister of Mines and Minerals Development is expected to inaugurate the seminar on 19 March at 09.30 AM. The EU Head of Delegation to Zambia, H.E. Alessandro Mariani and UN Resident Coordinator to Zambia, H.E. Janet Rogan, are also expected to grace the opening ceremony.

Beneficiaries

The seminar is aimed at staff from the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development (MMMD), Line Ministries, academic and civil society stakeholder institutions - as well as representatives from national geological surveys in 6 neighbouring countries.

Facilitators and Funding partners

The seminar is facilitated by the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) with assistance from the MMMD and the ACP-UNDP Programme in Zambia and is co-funded by DG-DEVCO and the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF).

The training objective

The main aim of the seminar is to strengthen the capacity of MMMD, the regulatory agencies and the universities involved in the ASM sector to assist and manage ASM operators in Zambia – while providing regional perspectives.

Particular emphasis will be on how the Geological Survey Department of Zambia (GSD) can be mobilized more actively in the service of ASM operators so as to ensure more profitable, efficient, environmentally friendly, safe and sustainable mining operations.

Capacitating the MMMD is key to improved mining operations in Zambia

Despite its wealth of mineral resources, Zambia is faced with the challenge of how to manage and profit from its underground treasury to the benefit of Zambians. This is particularly true of minerals extracted by way of ASM.

According to national ASM sector experts, education and training are among the key elements of any programme for artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) in the country as well as access to finance and improvement of occupational safety and health in ASM.

The PanAfGeo seminar is tailored to address those needs and to provide a geo-scientific platform for discussing practical steps towards the improvement of ASM in Zambia, a sector that employs an unspecified number of (informal) miners.

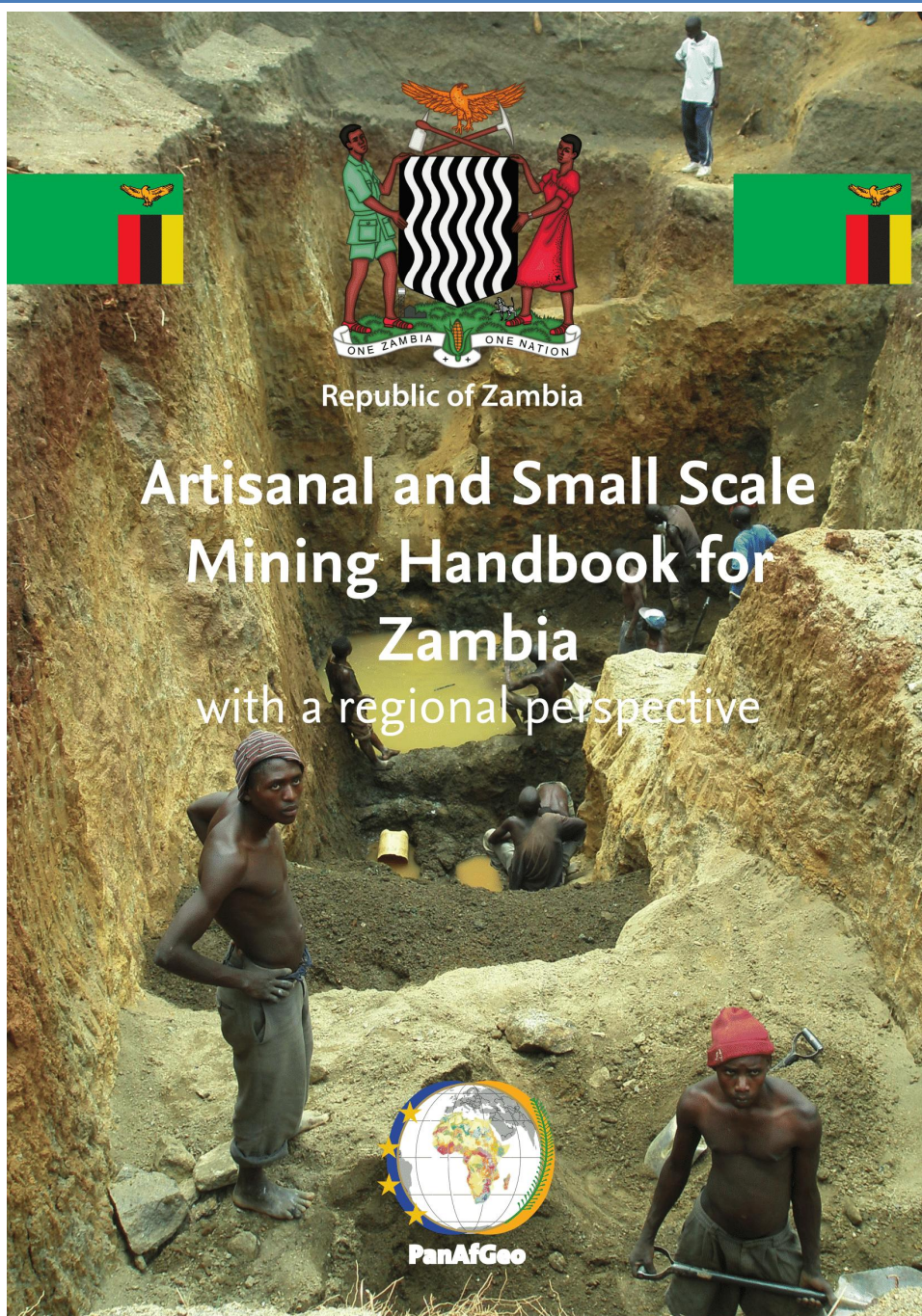
The economic and social potential of ASM is vast for especially two reasons: 1) it is labour-intensive and thus could serve as a major vehicle for job creation 2) Zambia is rich in minerals, the extraction of which, requires ASM techniques and tools for maximum output.

Yet, as evidenced by a baseline survey conducted in 2013, ASM operators – formal as well as informal – are not only leaving devastating environmental and social footprints and putting their own lives and health at risk, they also lack sufficient knowledge, financing and skills to make the most of their mining labour, resulting in reduced output and missed opportunities for increasing revenue. The MMMD could help ASM operators mine more efficiently and knowledgeably by way of geo-scientific state-of-the-art knowledge transfer and on-site guidance.

The PanAfGeo seminar is intended to help MMMD staff become such crucial industry partners.

Seminar outputs

To allow a wider stakeholder audience to profit from the training and lessons learned, the seminar presentations will be video recorded and made accessible on the PanAfGeo website after the seminar. For further reach and extension of the training a tutorial handbook on ASM for Zambia will be published, distributed - and made available online in early May.



The Zambian Government is happy to host the 2nd PanAfGeo WP3 Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Training for the SADC Region

For further information:

Website: <http://panafgeo.eurogeosurveys.org/>

Twitter: @PanAfGeo

ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme:

Website: <http://www.zm.undp.org/content/zambia/en/home/operations/projects/poverty-reduction/acp-eu-development-minerals-programme-.html>

IGF:

Website: <http://igfmining.org/panafgeo/>

Twitter: @IGFMining

Contacts:

For further information about the seminar please contact:

- **Ms. Bernadette Mwakacheya,**
Director, Planning and Information
Mob: +260 977884171
Mail: bernadette.ngulwa@gmail.com or Bernadette.mwakachey@mmd.gov.zm

- **Mr. Alexander Nyirenda**
Communications Officer
Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development
Mob: +260977207818
Mail: alexandernyirendat@gmail.com or alexander.nyirenda@mmd.gov.zm