

MMDAs

Strengthening Local Governance, Participation and Benefit-Sharing in Extractive Regions

Target Audience: Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs)



01 / CONTEXT

BACKGROUND

The Equity in Extraction Conference highlighted that communities hosting extractive projects across West Africa continue to experience inadequate and commensurate compensation for their lands, environmental degradation, livelihood disruption, and limited benefits from mining revenues. Weak community consultation processes, opaque Community Development Agreements, and limited fiscal decentralization have undermined trust between communities, governments, and extractive companies. Participants stressed that extraction cannot contribute to sustainable development unless communities are empowered as rights-holders and co-governors in natural resource decision-making.

The conference called for legally enforceable benefit-sharing frameworks, institutionalized community participation, and strengthened subnational governance systems that integrate extractive revenues into local development planning. Emphasis was placed on the role of MMDAs, traditional authorities, women's groups, youth organizations, and civil society in monitoring environmental compliance, managing local development funds, and facilitating grievance redress. The Conference further highlighted the importance of integrating climate resilience, livelihoods diversification, and gender inclusion into subnational extractive governance frameworks.

POLICY FOCUS

This policy brief presents priority actions for MMDAs, drawn directly from the conference outcomes and communiqué, to strengthen community participation, improve benefit-sharing, enhance accountability, and ensure that extractive activities support inclusive and sustainable local development.

Host communities receive limited and unpredictable benefits from extraction.

02 / EVIDENCE

Key Findings

The Conference deliberations revealed that:

01 Host communities receive limited and unpredictable benefits from extraction.

02 Community Development Agreements are often non-transparent and weakly enforced.

03 Environmental degradation and livelihood losses disproportionately affect women, youth, and vulnerable groups.

04 Subnational authorities face capacity constraints in environmental monitoring, revenue management, and community engagement.

05 Climate impacts compound environmental risks in extractive regions.

03 / ACTION

Policy Recommendations

The conference urged MMDAs to:

-
- 01** Support the implementation of legally enforceable Community Development Agreements for all extractive projects.
 - 02** Manage and oversee locally administered development funds financed by extractive revenues and directed toward health, education, livelihoods diversification, food systems, and climate resilience.
 - 03** Ensure environmental and social monitoring of extractive activities, including commitments to rehabilitation and restoration.
 - 04** Facilitate access to independent grievance and remediation mechanisms for affected communities
 - 05** Integrate gender-responsive programming into local extractive governance, including support for women's livelihoods and entrepreneurship.
 - 06** Facilitate inclusive artisanal small-scale mining (ASM) formalization through simplified licensing processes, access to technical assistance, finance, and market linkages.
-

Conclusion

The conference affirmed that extractive development must be anchored in community rights, participation, and shared prosperity. MMDAs play a central role in translating national mineral policies into tangible development outcomes at the local level and are urged to act decisively to embed equity, accountability, and sustainability in extractive governance.