



Netherlands Commission for
Environmental Assessment

Mining in Protected Areas

NCEA – EA for Mining – Mont Nimba mine

3 July 2025

What is the NCEA?

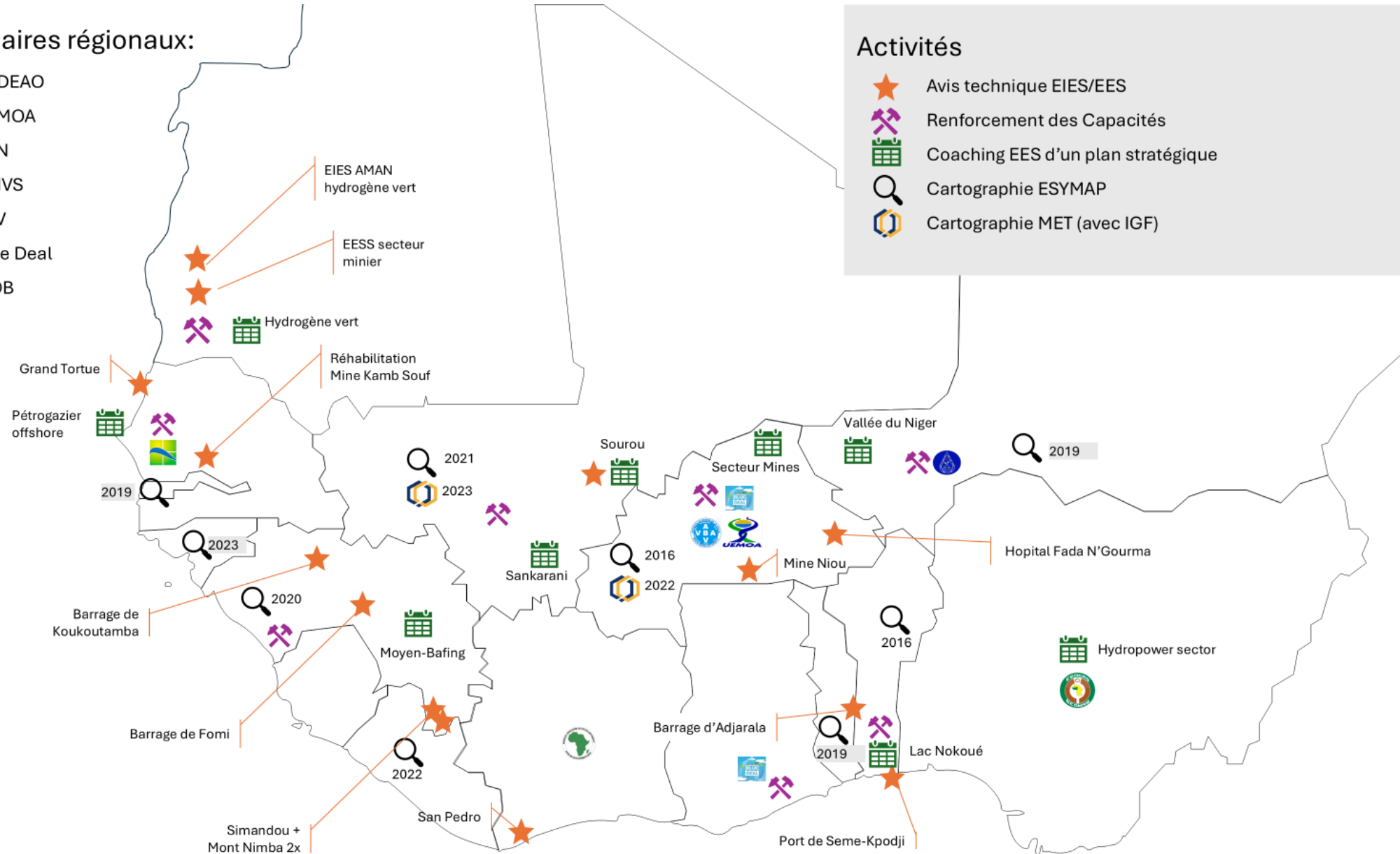
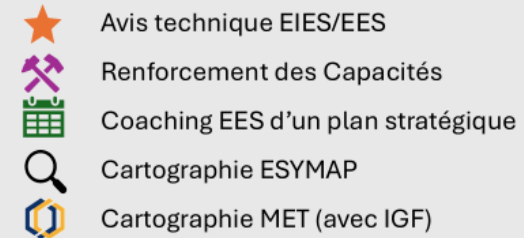
- Independent, semi-governmental institution, working in Dutch partner countries for over 35 years.
- Core activities: review, coaching and capacity development.
- Active in over 100 countries, with current focus on West-Africa.



Partenaires régionaux:



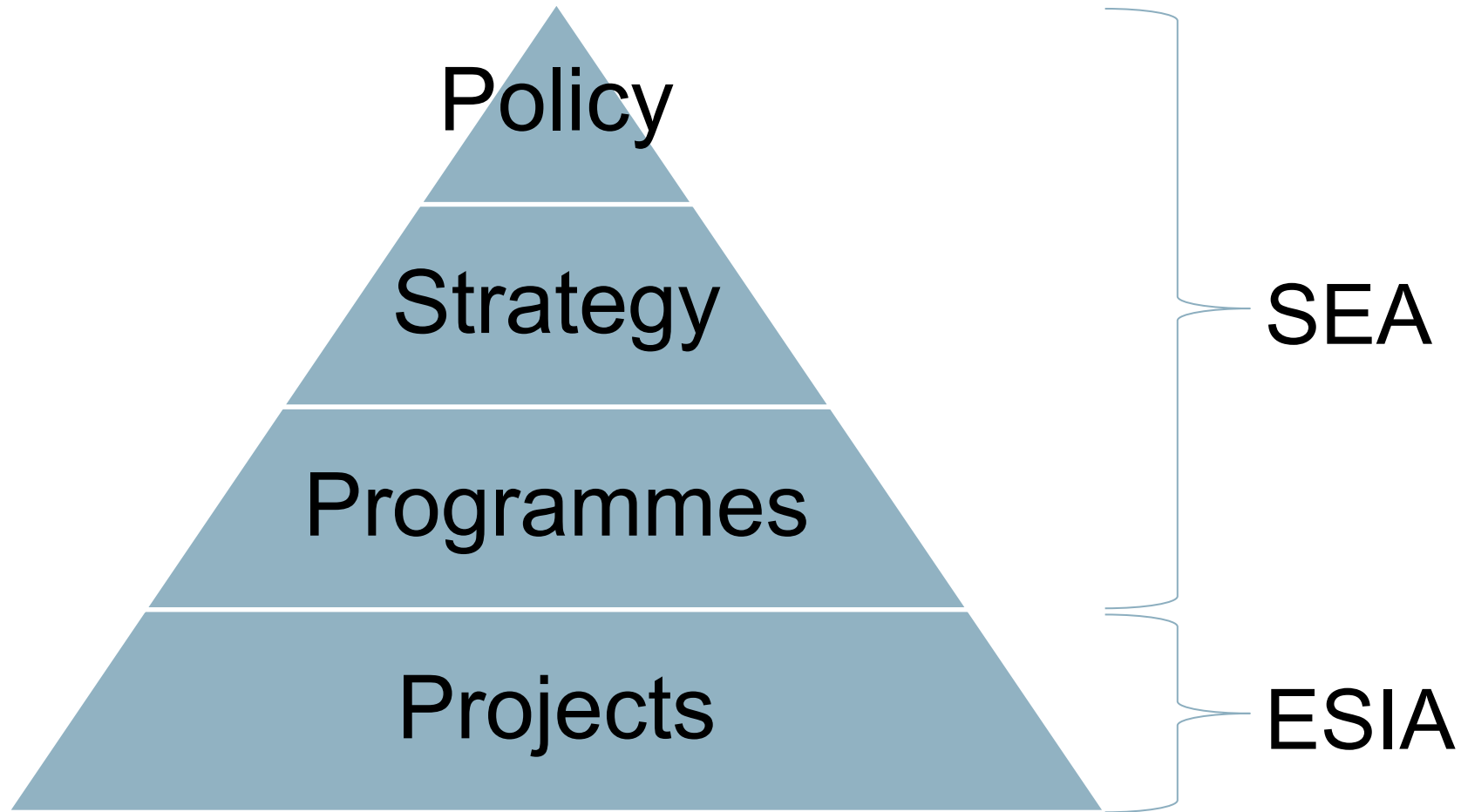
Activités



Some examples



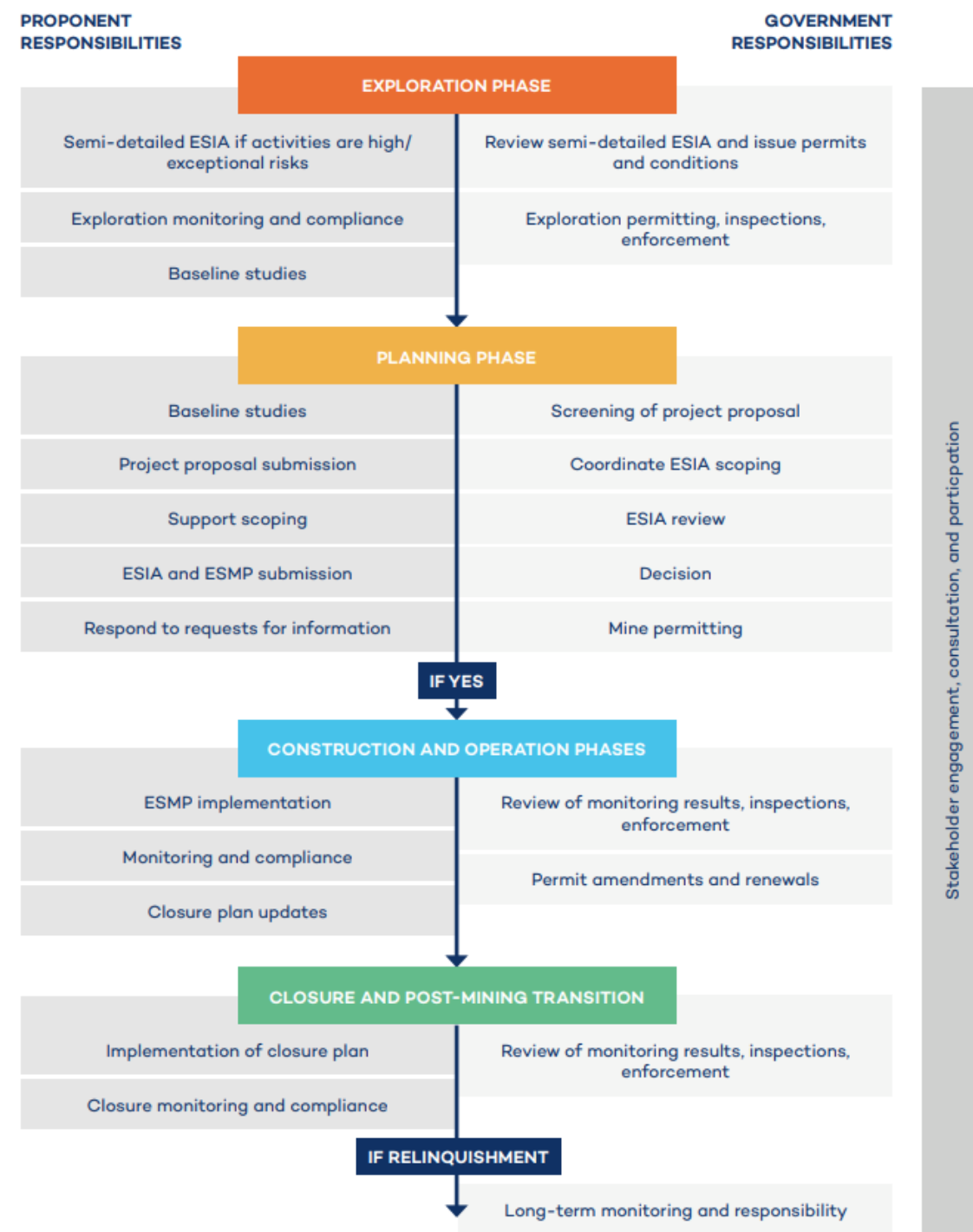
ESIA and SEA for mining



ESIA for mining

ESIA for mining:

- Usually legally required
- Helps understand E&S impacts
- Study project alternatives (including supporting infrastructure)
- Allow the public to express themselves on the project



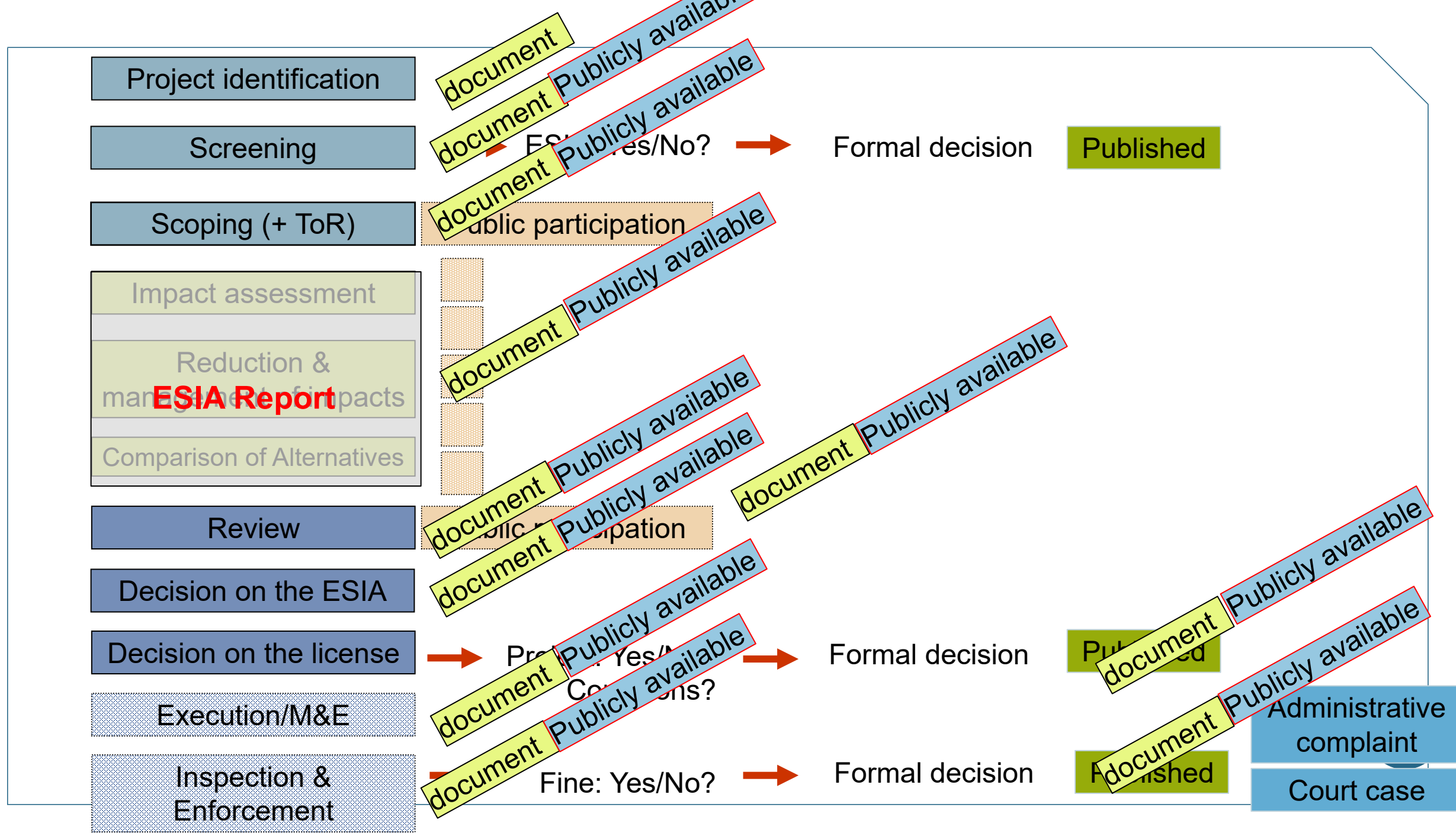
SEA for mining

- Effort led by government to help understand and manage the impacts of the mining sector or study a mining region.
- Helps discuss strategic questions such as:
 - Where can we allow permitting and how much volume?
 - How can the local population benefit from the sector and how and the environment best be protected?
 - How should the mines be powered and are cumulative solutions possible?
 - How best to transport the mined materials?
 - How to manage the end-of-life stage of the mines?



Public participation in ESIA and SEA





How can stakeholders be engaged?

Ladder of participation



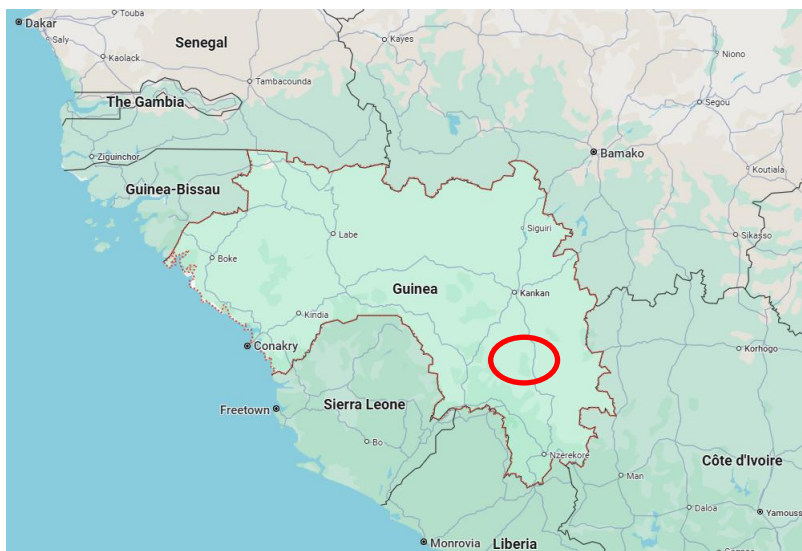
Case studies

Simandou
Mont Nimba

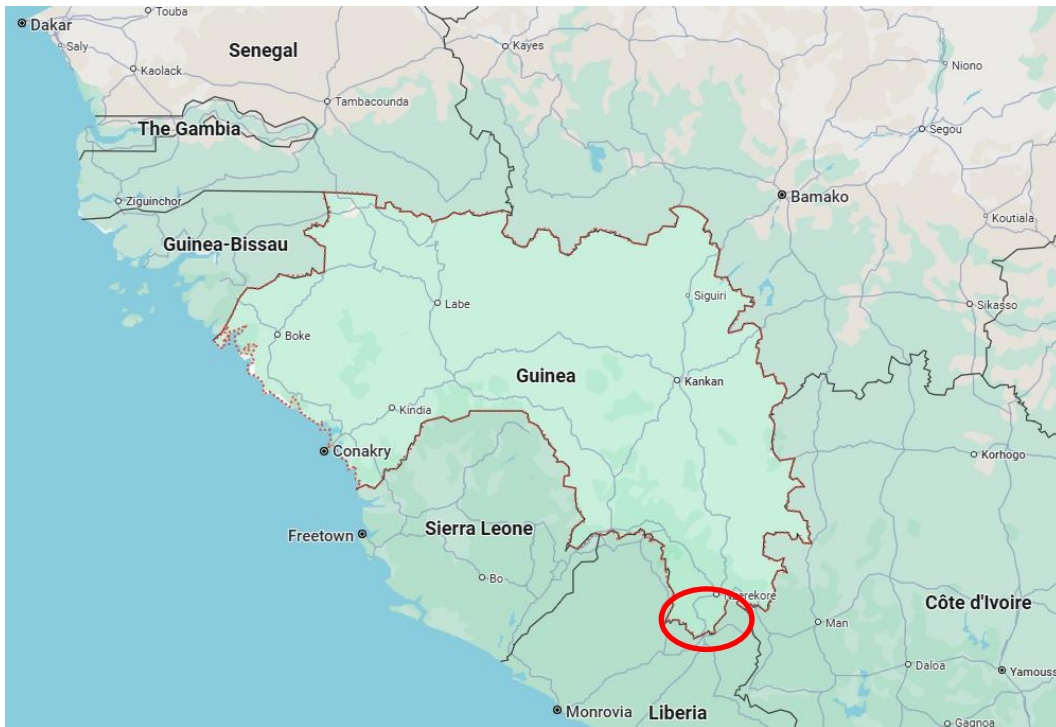


Simandou mine

- Potentially the biggest iron mine in the world (2 billion tonnes estimated).
- Project is being redesigned to protect biodiversity.
Commitment to IFC (PS6).
- RCAP review: compensate for damage to ecosystem services.

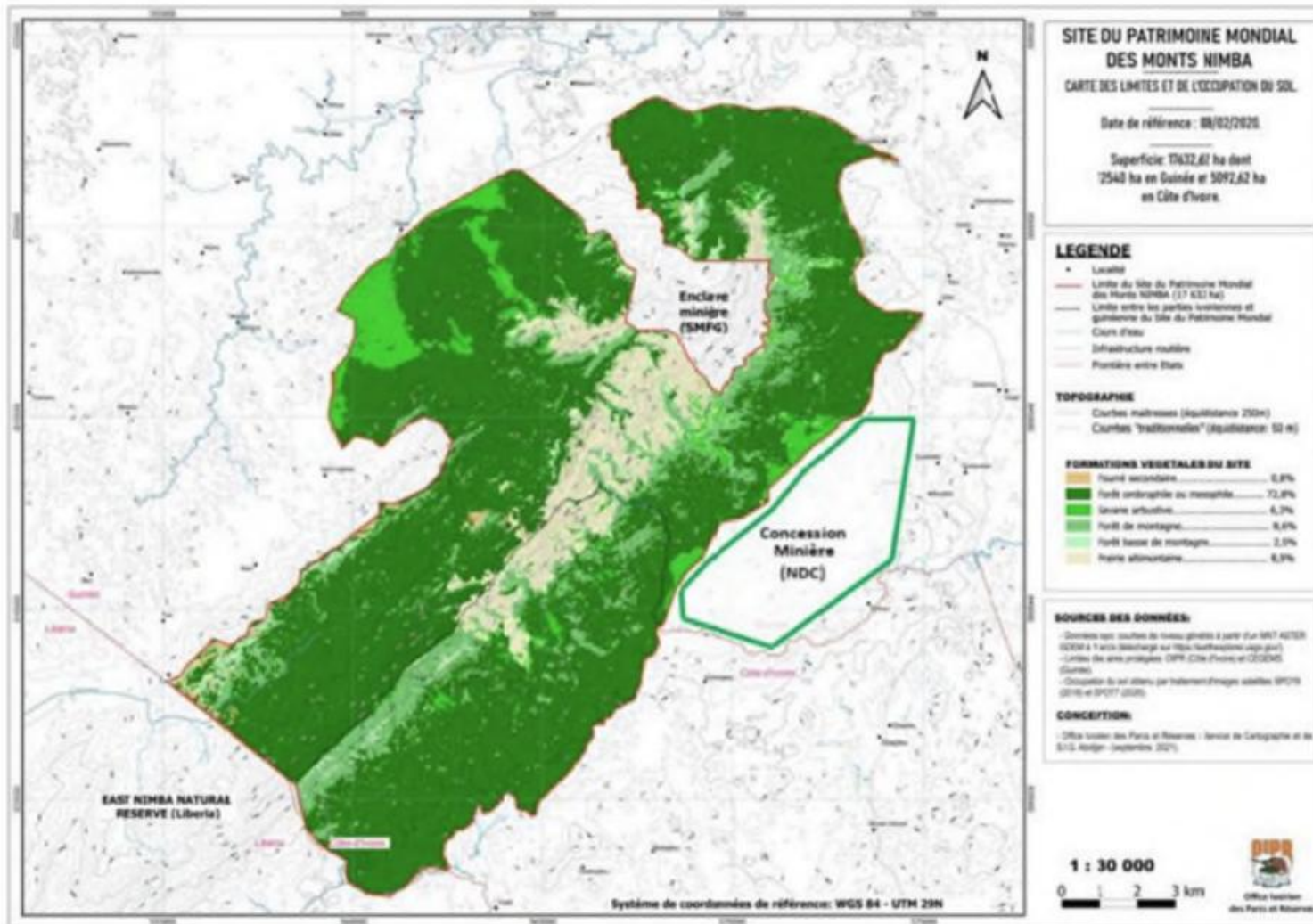


Mont Nimba iron mine



- 10 million tonnes per year in the first phase, 20 million tonnes in the next
- Transport through Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia

Mont Nimba iron mine



Two iron mines located at Mont Nimba reserve.

Reviews by the NCEA in 2024.

Review ESIA for
Mont Nimba
enclave Iron Mine
Project – Guinea -
NCEA - EN

NCEA review comments

Key recommendations

- Important to comply with the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's decisions to avoid jeopardizing the site's status. Special study of the site's OUVs necessary.
- Health and other social impacts will require the involvement of other governmental actors such as Health, Work, etc.
- Potential impacts include habitat destruction, water pollution, and changes to local microclimates. Thorough assessment and mitigation measures to minimize these impacts necessary.

