



ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme
Implemented in partnership with UNDP

RETURN TO WORK (RTW) PLAN

PROGRESS REPORT

An initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, financed by the European Union and United Nations Development Programme, and implemented by UNDP.



I. RETURN-TO-WORK PLANS

Return to Work projects are a valuable mechanism for workshop participants' personal and professional development. As part of your sponsorship, you were required to develop a return-to-work plan on a project you would undertake on your return, applying the knowledge and skills gained from workshop to influence change.

This follow-up on the progress of implementation of the return-to-work plan will be used to determine the most successful projects; and subsequently offer a number of selected participants the opportunity to attend future training events.

II. REPORTING STRUCTURE FOR RETURN-TO-WORK PLANS

To facilitate ease of reporting on the progress of your return to work project, the structure below outlines the key project elements that need to be covered. **Please submit the progress update on the Return to Work Project (RWP)** using the structure provided below.

GENERAL INFORMATION
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<p>Name(s): Nkonghoataw Dorcas Nkongho</p> <p>Position: Sub-Director/Sub-Department of Geological Mapping and Natural Hazards/Department of Geology/ Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development</p> <p>Email: ndorcasn@gmail.com</p> <p>Phone no (office + mob): +237 677 85 65 10</p>
<p>Brief description of the project:</p>



The project is about Monitoring of the environmental impacts of artisanal mining on pozzolana, sand, and gravel quarries in the Fako Division, South West Region of Cameroon. Case Study: Pozollana extraction at the Extocokam quarry, at Gardens, Limbe (Fig 1).

About 90 artisanal sites exist in the South West Region with an estimated man power of 3500 and about 5000 inhabitants benefiting directly or indirectly from the income generated from this activity. This activity also alleviates poverty in the region. It is pregnant with many problems amongst which are administrative bottle neck, financial constraints, environmental degradation, pollution, none mastery of the activity etc.

What were the expected outcomes and what outcomes did you achieve?

The expected outcomes were:

To identify all the stakeholders involved in the artisanal mining activity.

To identify the environmental impact of artisanal mining activity.

To describe and characterise the role and the manner of follow up on how to resolve these problems.

- Land degradation,
- Pollution,
- Destabilisation of the eco system,
- Destruction flora and fauna,
- Population displacement,
- Inadequate of monitoring by the administration.

The outcomes achieved include the delineation of the risky nature of the hills containing Pozzolana and how the methods of extraction used and practices could result in land degradation and landslides. The outcomes were actually as expected because during our visit to the site, we experienced a set of 04 minor landslides in the same area within the space of an hour. Also the locomotives used expel large quantities of black smoke directly to the atmosphere which degrades the ecosystem. Also, we experienced large bodies of stagnant pools of water, meaning holes are not refilled after exploitation (video 1) (Fig 2).

What were the expected outputs and what outputs did you achieve? Please be specific. For example, if you held a workshop or presentation to share the knowledge you gained during the training workshop: Where was the workshop held? When? How many people attended? What was the gender balance? Please also attach as an appendix any photos or other media.



The outputs mainly involved sensitization of the laborers in the field (in the quarries). They were thus educated about the risk on the way they do their exploitation, and the risk involved in not closing holes. They were also advice on the need to purchase if possible better ecologically friendly locomotives or put a filter around the exhaust pipe of their locomotive in other to limit the amount of toxic gases emitted to the environment.

In the future of the project, we expect to establish:

- A mechanism of follow up of environmental impact on artisanal mining.
- Develop a guide line of monitoring of artisanal mining.
- Presentation of the role of different stakeholders of artisanal mining activities.

What indicators of success have you achieved since the start of implementation? (Describe the indicators of success in relation to the expected outputs and outcomes)

The successes have been slow, but grow surely. Slow certainly due to lack of finance for the exploiters to purchase better working locomotives. But the index of success can be seen in the ways very slopy and risk prone areas are avoided during extraction.

What strategic opportunities have you acted upon that have contributed to the continued success of your project? (include linkages to sub-regional and regional agendas)

What opportunities opened up for you personally as a result of your RWP?

We work in the Department of Geology, Ministry of Mines. Here we have a sub-department of Geological Mapping and Natural Hazards. So since we also work for the government, the work has helped in discussing new policies and planning new strategies of collaborating, advising and assessing the local exploiters.



Please explain any problems encountered during implementation of your project, highlighting any deviations from the project plans (Describe the solutions sought for the problems and corrective actions undertaken for the deviations)

-The main problem we got from this implementation of the project was limited finance. We leave in Yaoundé but the work took place in Limbe which is about 6 hour drive from Yaoundé. Also this also limited our frequent visits to sites. But non the less, it didn't limit the quality of the work

-That of active landslides was also a problem. The first landslide was quite unpredictable for us, and it happened just above us, making that to abandon work in the area for a while (video 2).

What specific actions have you undertaken to ensure sustainability of your project?

Site visits have been the action mostly taken to ensure the sustainability of the project. As it involves monitoring of the evolution of the safety exploitation practices in these areas amongst other points listed above.

Please describe any future actions in the table below

ACTION PLAN

Period	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7
Activities							
Activity 1:	Visits to sites	Visits to sites	Organization of first training	Submission of first	Site visit	Organization of second training	Completion and submission



			workshop	draft of report		workshop	n of final copy of report
Activity 2:	Reconnaissance survey of the area	Organization of first sensitization seminar	Site visit	Site visit	Organization of second sensitization seminar	Site visit	
Activity 3:	Geological mapping	Sensitization of the artisans					
Activity 4:	Identification of risky zones						
Activity 5:							

