**CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

**FORMALIZATION OF ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE MINING OF DEVELOPMENT MINERALS**

1. INTRODUCTION

The mining, processing and beneficiation of Development Minerals is an informal activity in most of the countries where the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme is under implementation. The Programme is supporting artisanal and small-scale mining enterprises (ASMEs) to formalize their activities in the six focus countries. This support is actioned through combined on-site training and extension services, including, assistance to form cooperatives or other collective organizations and to apply for licenses, bank accounts etc. The capacity development approach to formalisation adopted by the Programme is to encourage independence and innovation.

This document provides a conceptual framework for the formalisation of Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) of Development Minerals. *Figure 1* depicts the three main overlapping stages of the conceptual framework, while *Figure 2* demonstrates the different stages of the formalization process.

***Figure 1***: Stages of the

formalization process

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

**Step 1: Strategy Development**. This refers to the development of a targeted strategy that integrates informal ASM activities within legal frameworks and other related regulatory mechanisms. Technical support for the review or formulation of comprehensive ASM-specific frameworks and mechanisms is factored-in at this stage. Strategy development also integrates informal ASM activities within the formal economy and positions the ASM operators favorably to access markets, market information, technology, equipment and finance.

**Step 2: Identification of formalisation approach**. Identification and selection of the most context-appropriate approach to ASM formalisation is key. Depending on the profile of the ASM site, the approach adopted could either be a community-driven approach with designated ASM representatives; an economic development approach anchored on value-chain development; or a hybrid of the two approaches.

**Step 3: Formalisation process**. The goal of the formalisation process is to transform the lives of millions of artisanal and small-scale mining operators through integrating existing informal income-earning activities and economies into the formal sector. Capacity development initiatives that enable ASMEs achieve better livelihoods through higher employment and incomes from their mining operations will be undertaken in a 3-prong approach that targets the individual miner, associations and cooperatives as well as legal, policy and institutional frameworks aimed at providing a business-enabling environment. Access to geological data and maps; sector-specific extension services such as market access, technology, finance; improved mining and quarrying practices; addressing environmental and social impacts; supporting women-owned and run ASMEs; supporting the enforcement of human and labour rights while eliminating child labour are all examples of key support for successful formalisation processes.

3. SCHEMATIC PRESENTATION OF THE ASM FORMALIZATION PROCESS

***Figure 2*:** Formalization process of ASM

Annex 1: ASM formalisation in Cameroon