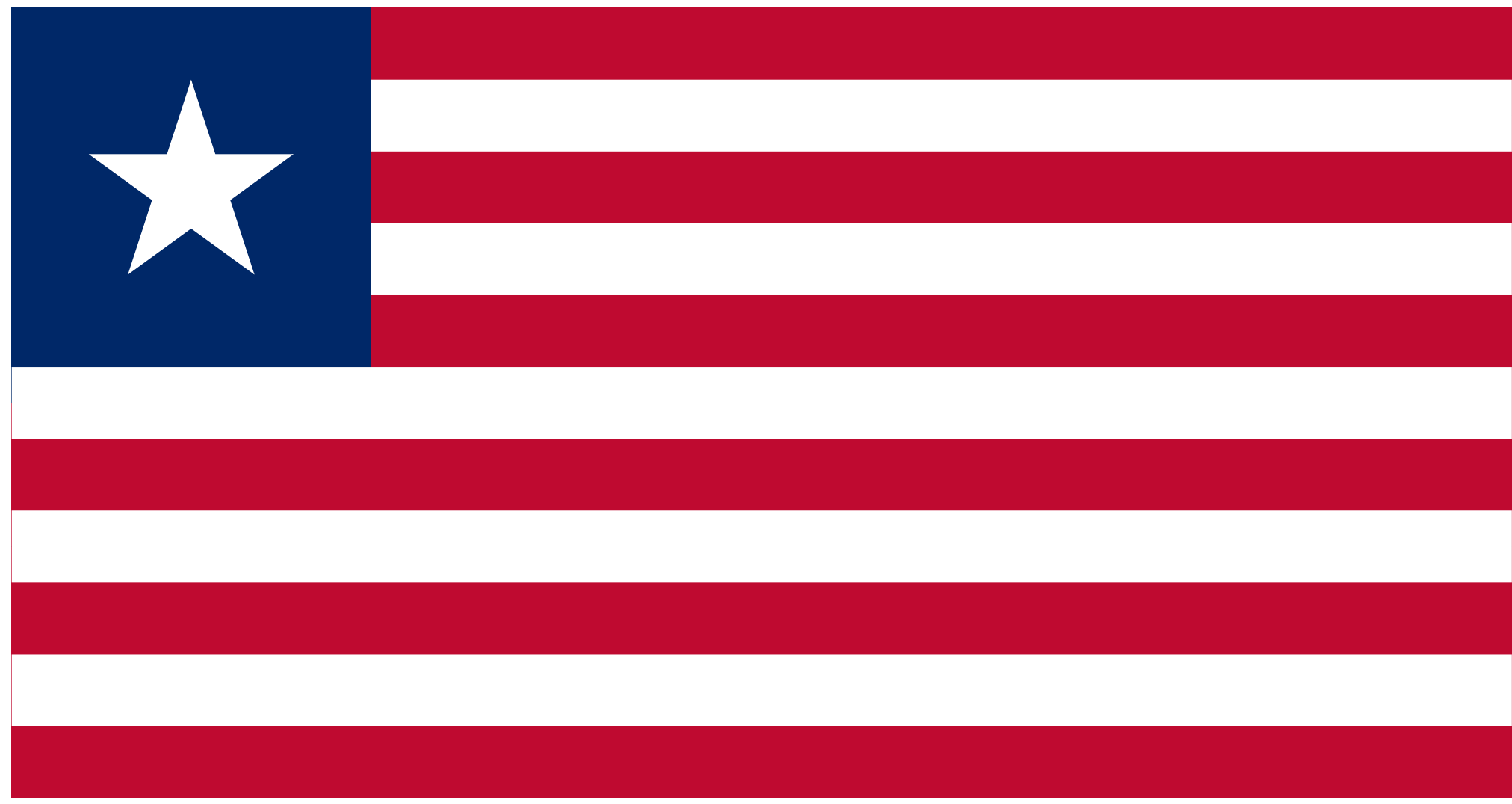


LIBERIA



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP MINIMAL BENCHMARK TOOLKIT FOR ARTISANAL MINERS

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INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME 308

Mine Water & Mine Waste Management



Sweden
Sverige

SGU Geological Survey of Sweden

Sida

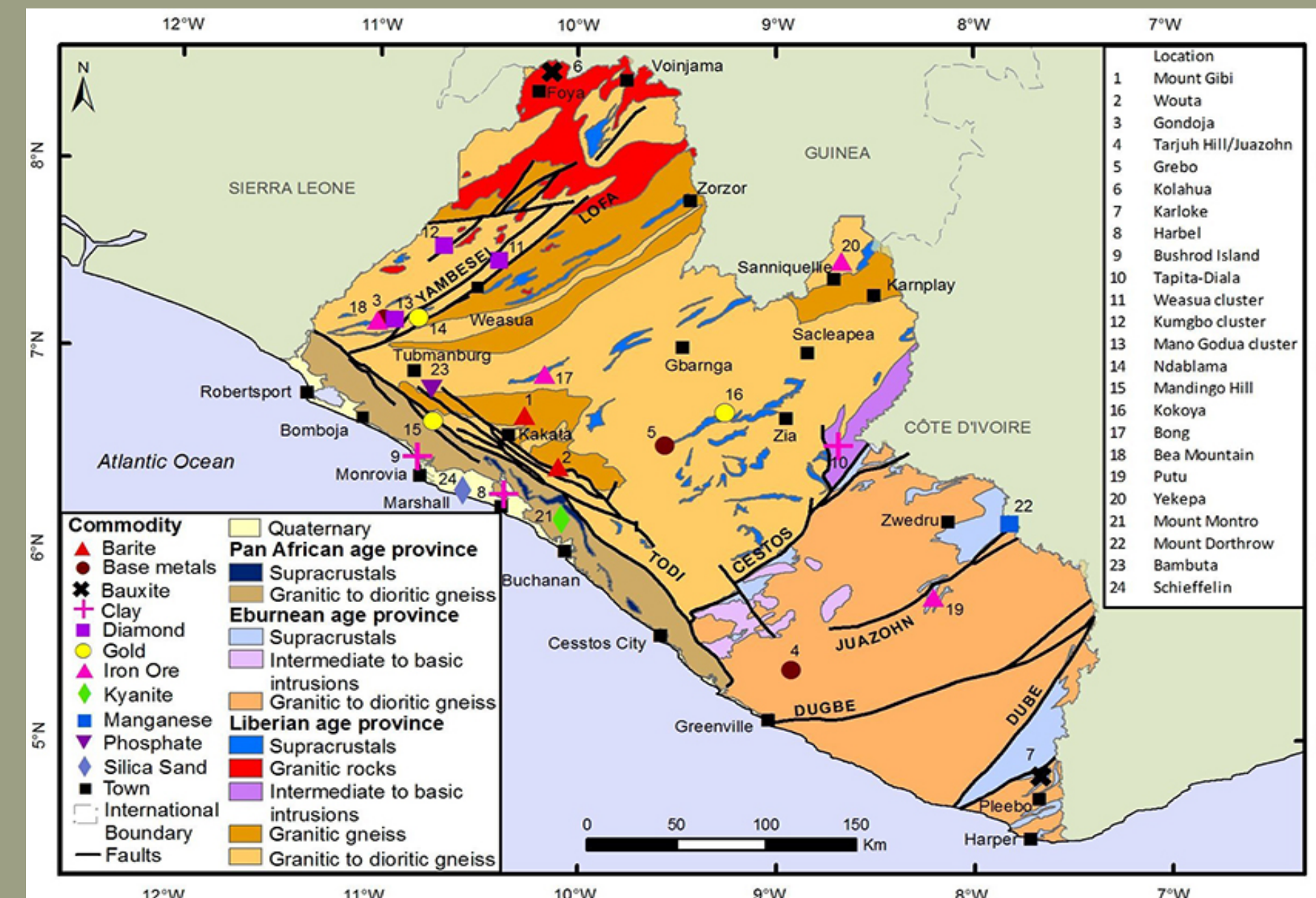
SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

LULEÅ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



THE CHANGE PROJECT

Liberia is a country rich in natural resources such as forestry and fishing as well as iron ore, diamonds and gold. Though mining is currently driving Liberia's economy growth to a large extent, it has also has yet to be fully tapped into and for the benefit of the Liberian people in general.



Liberian geology with selected deposits

Mining in Liberia is carried out both in a more larger scaled fashion as well as by artisanal miners. As a matter of fact, approximately 100 000 of the Liberian population are working directly with artisanal mining, with another 600 000 being indirectly affected by it. However, the negative impacts on the environment and the stakeholders surrounding the mining, affects an even larger part of the population.

Most of the artisanal mining takes place in rural areas of the country by individuals not formally trained in sustainability or even conscious of the implications of their activities on the environment and human health. Therefore, and to enhance the sustainability of mining in the country, the programme participating organisations have decided to work on a benchmark toolkit for artisanal miners. The short term goal is to develop a leaflet that will serve as a foundation for future participations in the ITP308, and in the long term to create and entire toolkit for the sole purpose to guide artisanal miners in practicing sustainable mining. The aim is for the toolkit to be used by both the artisanal miners as well as the government employees.



Photo from the Liberian Observer 20220318



SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The final toolkit will improve and change the artisanal miners' knowledge base with regards to the impact of their mining on nature and humans. It will also assist them in better understanding the regulations associated with their mining activities. In addition. there is an opportunity to enhance the final product recovery by improved methods of mining that will benefit the miners themselves, the BNP as well as the environment.

For the government authorities, MME and EPA, the tool kit will improve inter-organisational collaborations as well as make the institutions more efficient in regulating artisanal mining operations in the country.

KNOW YOUR ACTIVITY (CLASS C MINING)

Location: Grand Gedeh County, Liberia

What is Artisanal Mining?
Artisanal mining is the mineral extraction done generally by individuals, small groups of individuals, or cooperatives working with hand tools or very basic forms of machines.

WHO CAN DO CLASS C MINING?
The government say any Liberian who is 18 years old and above.
Man and Woman get equal right to do class C mining.

WHO CANNOT DO CLASS C MINING?
Non-Liberians cannot do Class C Mining.
Children that are under the age of 18 years cannot do Class C mining.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO CLASS C MINING?

You need paper from the government people. The paper is called a License, you can get it from the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

To get the paper you need to:

- Obtain clearance from the mining agent
- Fill the application form
- Provide proof of citizenship
- Attach two passport sized photo
- Pay USD \$150.00 for your license fees
- Pay USD \$150.00 for survey fees

DOs OF CLASS C MINING

Get your license before you mine and always make sure your license is valid. Use manual tools to do your work. Close all pits after mining in the area

DON'Ts OF CLASS C MINING

Do not use earth moving equipment (ex. excavator)
Do not cut down trees that can be by-passed
Do not use chemicals (mercury)

Do not use children under 18-years to mine for you
Do not leave pits open after mining
Do not destroy, change, or divert the water way
Do not dig under the pit banks
Do not use dredge to mine

BENEFITS OF DOING CLASS C MINING THE GOOD WAY

You protect the environment
The water you use in your household will be clean and safe
Your children will have land for livelihood activities

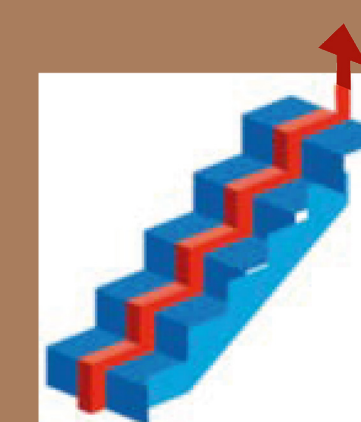
EFFECTS OF DOING CLASS C MINING THE BAD WAY

Your environment will not be safe
Your water will be polluted, the fish and other animals might die
You might experience flooding

WHO TO CONTACT FOR PROBLEMS AND INFORMATION?

The Ministry of Mines and Energy
Capitol Hill
Monrovia, Liberia
Help Desk: 0770132540

Information leaflet for the final toolkit



RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The initial project idea became too comprehensive to be possible to be carried out in the number of months available for one group, and thus, the first Liberian group has through desk studies, government stakeholder meetings and sponsorship meetings, set the stage for future programme participants to take on, and complete, the toolkit.

The government stakeholder meetings were particularly fruitful due to the realisation of existing and similar projects in Liberia. This can lead to additional collaborations with, and funding from, other organisations working in Liberia.

An information leaflet about Class C Mining, was completed to serve as a guide to the following programme participants with the hopes of them being able to complete the toolkit .



THE WAY FORWARD

To ensure that the Environmental Stewardship Minimal Benchmark Toolkit for Artisanal Miners becomes successful, it is crucial that the work is carried on by future participants in the Mine water and mine waste management programme.

The need for more informed miners and for more efficient collaborations between the organisations are important aspects of a more sustainable mining sector in Liberia Not just with regards to the environment, but also for an improved socioeconomic and health related outlook for the country and its population. There are numerous benefits to be had by the toolkit and with the active involvement of the organisations in the project, many changes can take place and improve the mining industry and its monitoring authorities.

Thus, it is of utmost importance that the project is securely anchored with the two main organisations and that the initial drive comes from them. In particular when it comes to resource allocation. There will be need for training of the trainers, big picture thinking, set up of training programmes and informations channels (digital, physical, media, etc.), just to mention some of the parts that must be in place for an ultimately successful project.

Going forward, it is also vital to include all the stakeholders in the work. It ranges from government authorities to local populations and possible universities and NGOs. With a wider net of collaborators, the funding of workshops, physical leaflets and so forth, may be easier to arrange.

Ultimately it is also up to the partaking organisations to adopt and use the toolkit as a key regulating guide for artisinal mining activities. With the long term commitment of the MME and the EPA, the project will be able to make a difference in the country's mining sector and with additional rings on the water in other sectors in Liberia.

