



Natural Resource Governance in Africa: From Policy to Practice: Dissemination of the Africa Governance Report 2025

Concept Note
(Webinar 2nd July 2026, 10.00am – 11.30am SAST)

1. Background

Africa holds an estimated 30% of the world's mineral reserves, over 60% of its arable land, and some of the world's most extensive marine and freshwater resources. Yet decades of extractive dependence, weak governance, and illicit financial flows have meant that this endowment has rarely translated into broadly shared prosperity. The global energy transition is intensifying external demand, particularly for critical minerals such as cobalt, lithium, and manganese, creating both new economic opportunities and heightened governance risks for African states. Against this backdrop, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) published the *Africa Governance Report 2025 (AGR 2025)* under the mandate of the AU Assembly (Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.874(XXXVII)), dedicating its fourth edition to natural resource governance covering land, mineral, and marine resources across the continent.

The AGR 2025 finds that the governance of these resources remains structurally fragile across three interconnected dimensions. In the **land sector**, insecure tenure systems and weak land administration continue to drive displacement, conflict, and exclusion of women and smallholder farmers. In the **minerals sector**, fiscal opacity, revenue leakage through illicit financial flows, and inadequate local content policies limit the developmental returns from extraction. In the **marine and blue economy** space, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and inadequate institutional capacity undermine both food security and economic potential. Across all three sectors, the report documents a persistent gap between normative commitments, including AU frameworks such as the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Land (VGGT), and their implementation at national level.

The AGR 2025 also foregrounds the nexus between natural resource governance and peace and security a dimension of particular relevance given ongoing conflicts in resource-rich regions such as the eastern DRC, the Sahel, and the Gulf of Guinea. The report's analysis draws on citizen perception data and four country case studies (Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, Seychelles), demonstrating that effective governance of natural assets is not merely a technocratic challenge but a political economy question with direct implications for social cohesion, state legitimacy, and conflict prevention.

This governance challenge is directly relevant to German and European development cooperation. The BMZ's Africa Strategy (2023) and the Federal Government's Africa Policy Guidelines (2025) both position equitable resource partnerships as central to just transition, supply chain resilience, and conflict prevention. On behalf of BMZ, GIZ

and the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) jointly implement the Sector Programme “Extractives and Development”, which supports African partner countries in building transparent, socially responsible, and value-adding raw material sectors. The EU’s Critical Raw Materials Act (2024) further anchors this agenda, making responsible sourcing partnerships with African states a strategic priority for European industrial policy.

GIZ supports this agenda across multiple African partner countries through technical and policy advisory services on extractives governance, land tenure reform, blue economy management, and artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) formalisation. The present event, co-convened by APRM and GIZ, aims to translate the AGR 2025’s findings into a concrete policy dialogue, bringing together African policymakers, AU institutions, civil society, and development partners to identify practical reform pathways and deepen collaboration between Africa and Germany on responsible resource governance.

Grounded in political economy analysis, normative framework review, and citizen perception surveys across 45 APRM member states, the AGR 2025 concludes that breaking the cycle of commodity dependence requires concerted, multi-level governance reforms. Its core recommendations include:

- **Strengthening legal and institutional frameworks:** Many African countries operate under outdated legal frameworks that do not reflect AU normative commitments such as the Africa Mining Vision (AMV), the AU Land Policy Framework, or the African Charter on Maritime Security. The AGR 2025 calls for modernising mining codes, land tenure legislation, and fisheries law, with stronger institutional oversight and enforcement capacity at national and sub-national levels.
- **Improving fiscal management and transparency:** Illicit financial flows (IFFs) from the extractives sector cost Africa an estimated USD 88 billion annually. The AGR 2025 recommends mandatory EITI membership and reporting, stronger beneficial ownership disclosure, and improved domestic revenue mobilisation from royalties and corporate taxes, ensuring that resource wealth stays in Africa and funds public services and industrialisation.
- **Enhancing policy coherence and coordination:** Fragmented governance across energy, environment, finance, and mining ministries weakens African states’ ability to capture value from the green transition. The AGR 2025 highlights the need to align national resource policies with AU Agenda 2063, the SDGs, and the Just Transition agenda, an area where German development cooperation provides concrete technical and advisory support.
- **Promoting inclusive governance and community engagement:** Free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) remains poorly implemented across most African resource-extracting jurisdictions. The AGR 2025 finds that women, indigenous communities, and artisanal miners are systematically excluded from decision-making. Gender-responsive land and mining policies are identified as both a rights imperative and a precondition for social stability and legitimate governance.

- **Addressing environmental and social impacts:** Environmental degradation from unregulated mining, IUU fishing, and unsustainable land conversion represents an acute governance failure with long-term economic costs. The AGR 2025 calls for mandatory, participatory ESIs, stronger remediation obligations, and alignment with international standards such as the IFC Performance Standards, areas where the BMZ/GIZ Sector Programme “Extractives and Development” provides direct technical assistance.

2. Objectives of the hybrid dissemination of AGR 2025

- Disseminate and contextualise the AGR 2025 findings on land, mineral, and marine resource governance including the report’s citizen perception data, country case studies, and policy recommendations to a broad African and international audience.
- Showcase reform experiences and transferable good practice from the AGR 2025 case study countries (Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, Seychelles) and from GIZ partner country programmes, with a focus on actionable lessons for governance of land tenure, fiscal transparency in extractives, and blue economy management.
- Strengthen the Africa–Germany partnership on responsible resource governance by identifying concrete areas for joint action between APRM, GIZ, BMZ, AU institutions, and partner country stakeholders, in line with the BMZ Africa Strategy (2023) and the EU Critical Raw Materials Act (2024).

3. Agenda:

Time (SAT)	Content	Speaker
10:00 – 10:55	SESSION ONE: OPENING SESSION	Session Chair: Mr Emmanuel Merissa Anna, APRM
10:00 -10:10	Welcome statement by Governance Architecture-the Peace and Security Architecture (AGA-APSA) platform, African Union Commission	Amb. Salah Hammad, AGA-APSA Secretariat
10:10 -10:20	Opening statement by APRM CEO	Amb. Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre, CEO, APRM
10.20 -10.30	Remarks by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Mr Ronald Meyer, Head, Policy issues cooperation with Africa/African Union
10:30 -10:35	Remarks by the APRM: why natural resource governance is central to Africa's development trajectory in 2025 and beyond	Dr. McBride Nkhalamba, Director, Governance and Specialized Reporting, APRM

10:35 -10:45	German development cooperation (GIZ) on natural resource governance in Africa: approaches, and lessons learnt	Mr Stefan Bauchowitz and Jan Bollmann, Sector Project on Extractives and Development, GIZ
10:45 -10:55	Key findings of the AGR 2025: land, mineral, and marine resource governance in Africa trends, challenges, and recommendations	Ms Karabo Chadzingwa-Mochebelele, APRM
10.55 -11.15	SESSION TWO: PANEL DISCUSSION Session Objective: To translate the AGR 2025 recommendations into action by drawing perspectives and critical insights from the AU African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), AUDA-NEPAD, and the AU Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture (ARBE).	Moderator: Ms. Diana Demba-Mutondo, APRM
	1. Intervention on Mineral Resource Governance by the AU - Africa Minerals Development Centre (AMDC)	Mr Mkhululi Ncube, Programme Officer, AMDC
	2. Intervention on Land Resource Governance African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)	Dr. Rudo E. Makunike, Principal Programme Officer, Sustainable Land and Water Management
	3. Intervention on Marine Resource Governance by the AU - Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) Department	Dr. Jihane EL GAOUZI, Head, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy Division, ARBE
11:15-11:25	Questions & Answers session	
11:25 -11:30	SESSION THREE: CLOSING SESSION	Session Chair: Mr Emmanuel Merissa Anna, APRM
11:25-11:30	Closing remarks by GIZ: key messages - pathways for Africa– Germany cooperation on responsible resource governance	Mr Max Middeke GIZ-AU PCP Sector Coordinator and Head, GIZ-AUPSG project

Time zone: South Africa

Note:

This hybrid event is co-convened by the APRM Continental Secretariat and GIZ. It serves as a key output of the AGR 2025 dissemination process, bringing the report's findings into direct dialogue with the practitioners and policymakers best placed to act on them. Core participants include AU specialised agencies (AMDC, AUDA-NEPAD, ARBE), representatives from APRM member states, GIZ country programmes active in the natural resources sector, BMZ, and the broader governance and development community including think tanks, civil society, academia, the private sector, and media. The event will produce a short summary of key messages and actionable recommendations for circulation to AU member states and development partners. The AGR 2025 report can be found [here](#).