

AFRICAN UNION

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AU/TI/ID/CAMRMRD-3.AMGI

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The analysis of the African Minerals Geosciences Initiative (AMGI):

”The Billion Dollar Map”

Summary

1. Introduction

1. This brief has been developed to analyze critically the African Minerals Geosciences Initiative (AMGI) or **the Billion Dollar Map** which has been developed by the World Bank as a key project under the implementation of the African Mining Vision without the full involvement of the African Union Member States and the African Union Commission. The project is timely as it will ensure that Africa can take stock of all the geological data still remaining in Africa. However, this process is highly sensitive and requires high-level ownership of the entire process and the data by Africa Member States so that they can make informed decisions in contract negotiations and investment policies. This ownership calls for an inclusive, transparent and holistic engagement with all key stakeholders especially the member States who are the custodians of the minerals and natural endowments on behalf of their citizenry during the design, development and ultimately the implementation of AMGI as an AUC led project..

The African Minerals Geoscience Initiative (AMGI) has been developed as a pan-African initiative for the collection, consolidation, interpretation and effective dissemination of national and regional geodata through a geo-portal, thereby increasing accurate and updated geoscientific data available in public domain. This would be done with the ultimate goal of seeking to facilitate broad-based governance changes in the mineral and other downstream and side-stream sectors, including: (i) improved licensing processes and procedures that efficiently leverage the natural resource wealth of countries; (ii) improved spatial planning, infrastructure development, forest and wildlife conservation through the use of regional resource corridors; and (iii) sustainable development policies for natural resources management.

In the forums where the project has been introduced, **Member States expressed concerns regarding ownership of data and where data would be held, in particular whether or not African data should be held outside of Africa**

However, the project, has raised a number of concerns especially the way it has been hastily developed without full engagement with AUC as well as the AU* member States.

The following issues have been identified: Instructional Arrangement including funding; AMGI has not been cleared by AUC Policy Organs; there has been inadequate consultation with AUC and the stakeholders; a number of concerns particularly the ownership of the project and Data and where the data would be kept were raised but these were ignored by the WB in project development. Below are some recommendations and the way forward.

1. Institutional Arrangement

It is strongly recommended that the AMGI should be institutionalized under the AUC in the Department of Trade and Industry pending the finalization of the Institutionalization of the AMDC and/or as directed by the Member States. This is in line with other similar initiatives such:

- **the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and**
- **Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) all of which are coordinated by AUC and being implemented by the AUC stakeholders including NPCA and the RECs.**
- **The Multi-Donor Trust Fund is also the same as the CAADP financing structure so it can also be handled under the AUC- World Bank framework agreement.**

2. AMGI has not been cleared by the AUC policy organs.

The 2nd Conference of the AU Ministers responsible for Minerals did not give clearance to the AMGI Project even though they welcomed the offer by the World Bank and other partners but with a **“Caution about the ownership”** if such a project is funded through donor funding”

In spite of the recognition that there was a need for geological mapping and creation of the Geological Data Bank, There was no presentation or discussion of the AMGI Project at the 3rd Conference of the Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that to ensure ownership AMGI should be discussed by Member States and other key stakeholders in the Mining Sector, get it cleared by the Policy Organs and adopted by the Heads of State and Government before being implemented.

3. Consultations with AUC

Even though it is proposed that AMGI will be implemented in partnership with AUC, AUC has never been consulted and the AMGI report was only shared with UNECA/AMDC but not AUC for comment..

Following the AUC concerns, raised during the Mining Indaba Donor Roundtable meeting, the World Bank organized a bilateral meeting between Mr. Paulo De sa (World Bank Representative)

and the H.E Mrs Fatima Haram Acyl accompanied by Mr. Frank Mugenyi (Senior Industry Adviser and Mr. Babajide Sodipo (Regional Trade Adviser).

During the discussion, AUC clearly stated that, much as the WB Initiatives and AMGI were very important for the development of Africa's minerals and other natural resources sectors and particularly the Implementation of the African Mining Vision, adequate and exhaustive consultations were not done and that neither was AMGI presented to the AUC policy organs for clearance. The Commissioner stressed that the AMV and its implementation process is an African owned and the AUC is mandated with the its implementation working with technical partners such as UNECA. In response the World Bank regretted that AUC and AU member states were not exclusively consulted.

In order to resolve the issues raised, the World Bank expressed interest to organise a mission to AUC to discuss the issues and reminded that there was a Framework Agreement between the WBG and AUC through which engagements on such initiatives can be explored

Decision:

The meeting agreed that detailed information be sent to the AUC in order to review the history behind such announcements and to ensure that corrective measures are taken timely.

4. Conclusion

Following the observations as listed above, it is very clear that while the World Bank and the UNECA have been highly involved in the AMGI development process to the level where the project has now been cleared internally by the World Bank, the AU (AUC, Key Stakeholders and Member States) were not consulted and where limited consultation were made critical concerns were raised. It is nonetheless, clear that these critical concerns were not taken serious during the project development.

Notwithstanding, the AMGI is a very important project in implementation of the AMV and supporting Africa in her quest for inclusive growth and sustainable development based on industrialisation through beneficiation and value addition of her abundant natural resources. It is thus recommended that AUC takes ownership od the process through the following way forward:

Way forward

Given the above observations, and considering the importance of the AMGI in terms of the implementation of the AMV, the following are the recommended way forward:

- a) **The World Bank be notified of the grave concerns and the need to have the AMGI cleared by the AUC Policy organs before implementation**
- b) **Immediately and as soon as possible convene a meeting with the World Bank to discuss all the issues raised during the entire process of consultation and also picked up by this analysis. The meeting should also be attended by the following:**
 - i. **African Development Bank Legal facility to provide legal support as a number of areas including ownership require legal interpretation,**
 - ii. **Organisation of African Geological Surveys – this was mentioned as having been consulted ,**
 - iii. **Southern and Eastern African Minerals Centre, (SEAMIC), this is a potential partner in the implementation of AMGI and AMV as a whole,**
 - iv. **West African Exploration Initiative this was also mentioned in AMDC reports on AMGI**
 - v. **AMDC Secretariat and Partners**
 - vi. **Any other institutions that are engaged in the Mineral Resource Development**
- c) **Develop an implementation institutional framework of the AMGI as part of the AUC reporting directly to the Policy organ structures of the AU.**
- d) **Arrange a workshop of all the African geological Survey institutions and if possible with notable lawyers etc to discuss the implementation of AMGI in line with the AMV**
- e) **Include the AMGI on the agenda for the Bureau and the 1st Extra-ordinary Conference of the Ministers responsible for the Mineral Resource Development scheduled 3rd week of May and October/November 2014 respectively.**