



Critical Mineral Value Chain upgrading and International Cooperation: Opportunities for beneficiation and equitable value chain upgrading in Africa to deliver whole-of-economy and whole-of-society just transitions

1. Name of proposing Party or organization.

Southern Transitions (2)

2. Brief description of the proposed study:

1. Problem statement Africa possesses significant mineral resources required for the global transition but remains concentrated in lower-value extraction and export activities. Without deliberate intervention, African countries may bear many of the transition's social and environmental costs while capturing a limited share of its economic opportunities. 2. Proposition The study would use selected country, mineral or value-chain case studies to identify: • viable opportunities for beneficiation and value-chain upgrading; • the economic diversification, industrialisation and employment benefits associated with those opportunities; • the infrastructure, energy, technology, skills and financing required; • the constraints created by international finance, trade and investment systems, alongside domestic commercial and policy barriers; • potential social, environmental and distributional risks; and • the finance, trade, investment, technology and capacity-building cooperation needed to enable viable and equitable upgrading both for new opportunities and to enable economic diversification. Methodologically, the study would apply a common analytical framework across a small set of purposively selected cases, combining value-chain mapping and economics analysis with engagement of government, industry, workers and affected communities to test where upgrading is commercially viable and developmentally beneficial. This process will surface the specific enabling conditions and cooperation arrangements each opportunity requires. The study would position critical mineral value-chain upgrading within whole-of-economy and whole-of-society just transitions, linking mineral endowments to industrialisation, decent work and structural transformation through engagement with government, industry, workers and affected communities. Its central focus would be how international systems of finance, trade and investment, with technology transfer, skills and capacity-building, can make upgrading viable-enabling equitable access to transition opportunities and



diversification from carbon-intensive activities, rather than continued lower-value extraction and transition costs. The replicable framework would draw on existing critical minerals work.

3. *United Nations region to be covered by the case study:*

Africa;

4. *Country or countries to be covered by the case study*

African mineral exporting countries or countries on the continent with significant mineral reserves e.g. Nigeria, Guinea, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, DR of Congo

5. *Area of the case study:*

The design and implementation of economic diversification strategies ;

6. *Expected duration for completion of the case study (in months):*

14

7. *Contribution of the submitting organization*

Technical inputs;Data;Authorship;

8. *Can the study be developed without financial support from the UNFCCC?*

Yes

9. *If no, please provide the estimated range of required financial support in USD (Please note that the UNFCCC is not a donor organization and has limited funding):*

0

10. *Please provide the status of any preliminary work undertaken that could serve as a basis for the study, including a link to any available reports, if available.*

Case study of Morocco and the phosphate value chain:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/66d875be45741e71e207c640/t/6a7f0428b9c819394a471691/1786709032386/FINAL_Leveraging+the+Phosphate+Value+Chain+for+Just+Transitions.pdf and work covering the bauxite value chain in Guinea:



Framework Convention on
Climate Change

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/66d875be45741e71e207c640/t/6983ec0ef9863f69e6b298a2/1770253542564/BeyondRawOre-FINAL.pdf> and
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/66d875be45741e71e207c640/t/698ab6f99267ed6e4a527dd4/1770698489205/RedEarth-FINAL.pdf>



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