
Sierra Leone's Mining Agreements Live on ResourceContracts

Since June 2014, both the [Ministry of Mines and Mineral Resources](#) and the [National Minerals Agency](#) have been uploading Mining Lease Agreements between the Government of Sierra Leone and mining companies in a bid to promote transparency in the minerals sector in the country. To date, the NMA has uploaded about seven (7) Mining Lease agreements on its website.

However, due to the complex nature of legal documents, we are aware of the fact that not everybody can read and easily understand the exact context of these documents. For this reason, we have been working with staff of the [Natural Resource Governance Institute](#) (NRGI) and the [Columbia Centre on Sustainable Investment](#) (CCSI) to publish these mining lease agreements on the [ResourceContracts](#) platform. This platform is an online, searchable and user-friendly database of publicly available oil, gas and mining contracts around the world. The platform, which seeks to maximise public access to and comprehension of oil, gas and mining contracts, is jointly managed by NRGI, CCSI and the World Bank.

Today, I am proud to announce that the Sierra Leone ResourceContracts website has gone live on the internet and can be accessed at www.nma.gov.sl/resourcecontracts. In the near future, all related documents such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) studies, Community Development Agreements (CDAs), etc will be linked to the respective agreements as may be applicable. I encourage you all to visit the site and give us your feedback and feel free to download the agreements.

I want to thank Charles Young, an Open Data Consultant from NGSi, Sophie Thomashausen, a Legal Researcher from CCSI and Emmanuel B. A. Lansana for their contribution to this project. We remain thankful to the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, the World Bank Group and UKaid for developing such an innovative application and their support in making Sierra Leone a part of this global initiative.

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Director General, National Minerals Agency