



## **Governing Sustainability: Global Standards and Certification Schemes in the Natural Resources Sector**

**Venue:** Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich (LMU Munich)

**Date:** March 22-23, 2012

**Convenors:** Bernhard Zangl and Anna Stetter (LMU Munich)

The workshop was co-hosted by the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich and COST Action ISO802 *Transformations of Global Environmental Governance* and is part of a research project commissioned by the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR).

### Summary

Gudrun Franken opened the workshop introducing BGR's involvement in mineral certification in the Great Lakes Region as the background. In panel I Harrison Mitchell brought the presentations by Philipp Pattberg, Anna Stetter and Julia Steets to a bottom line with the question: is certification the answer? This question was further advanced in panel II in presentations by Matthew Wenban-Smith, by Agni Kalfagianni and by Gavin Hilson with a critical assessment of the potential of Fairtrade gold in Africa. Day II dealt with the cases ISO management standards by Stepan Wood, the FSC with special focus on smallholders by Angeline Gough, the Kimberley Process by Oliver Westerwinter and the ongoing Mineral Certification scheme in the Great Lakes Region by Paul Mabolia Yenga. Matthew Wenban-Smith discussed the contributions

by drawing parallels between the cases as they emerged in a similar vein while Eddie Mbona took the opportunity as discussant to highlight the on the ground needs and challenges the African countries in the Great Lakes region are facing in the development of their certification scheme against the issues at stake for the region. The workshop closed with a roundtable discussion on the prospects and limits of generalizing the results across sectors. Here, Gudrun Franken shared her opinion that the market-driven feature at the core of the FSC, for instance, cannot be tapped to a similar extent in minerals. Markus Wagner also outlined the limits to the potential of mineral certification by demonstrating the small percentage minerals actually contribute to conflict financing next to other natural resources.

All participants treasured the opportunity to learn from other sectors and schemes and valued the different perspectives policy makers respectively academics brought into the debate. On the one hand, the specifics of each and every context were perceived as crucial to understanding the needs for certification. On the other hand, it was agreed upon that certain common features can be identified.

The workshop focused on Global Standards and Certification Schemes that aim at enhancing social and environmental sustainability in different natural resource sectors. These arrangements are characterized by the fact that they include a *range of stakeholders* from public authorities, corporate business as well as civil society. They engage in effecting *voluntary standards*. They are organized on a *global scale* with the aim of having impacts on *diverse local contexts*. They focus on commodities that are traded *between the Global North and the Global South*. And they operate in *natural resource sectors* such as forestry, fish, minerals and the like. Some examples are the Forest Stewardship Council, the Marine Stewardship Council, the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme or the Fairtrade Labeling Organizations International.

The workshop convened researchers on transnational governance with policy-makers and stakeholder representatives engaged in Global Standards and Certification Schemes with the overarching pursuit of enabling an exchange of scholarly findings and on the ground experiences.

Program

Day One, March 22

**13:30 Welcome and Opening** Anna Stetter (LMU) and Gudrun Franken (BGR)

**13:45 Panel I: Institutional Design and the Effectiveness of Standards and Certification in Global Sustainability Governance**

Chair: Bernhard Zangl (LMU Munich)

Discussant: Harrison Mitchell (RCS, London)

Philipp Pattberg (VU Amsterdam)

**Private Governance by means of Standards and Certification**

Anna Stetter (LMU München)

**Types of Global Standards and Certification Schemes and their Effectiveness**

Julia Steets (GPPI Berlin)

**Accountability and Transnational Governance**

*15:30 Coffee break*

**16:00 -17:45 Panel II: Perceptions of Effectiveness: When is Certification Considered Successful?**

Chair: Stepan Wood (Osgoode, Toronto)

Discussant: Kristin Komives (ISEAL Alliance, London)

Matthew Wenban-Smith  
(OneWorldStandards)

**The Potential of Standards to Deliver Social and Environmental Benefits**

Agni Kalfagianni (VU Amsterdam)

**Effects and Effectiveness of Private Governance**

Gavin Hilson (University of Reading)

**Ethical Mineral Production in sub-Saharan Africa: Re-conceptualizing the Challenge**

Day Two, March 23

**9:00 Panel III, Part 1: Looking into the Field: Challenges and Opportunities to the Effectiveness of Global Standards and Certification**

Chair: Agni Kalfagianni

Discussant: Matthew Wenban-Smith (OneWorldStandards)

Stepan Wood (Osgoode, Toronto)

**ISO 14000 Environmental Management and ISO 26000 Social Responsibility**

Angeline Gough (FSC, Bonn)

**FSC Certification and Smallholders: Achievements and Challenges**

*10:30 Coffee break*

**11:00 Panel III, Part 2: Looking into the Field: Challenges and Opportunities to the Effectiveness of Global Standards and Certification**

Chair: Philipp Pattberg (VU Amsterdam)

Discussant: Eddy Mbona (ICGLR)

Oliver Westerwinter (EUI Florence)

**Public-Private Security Governance: The KPCS and the Voluntary Principles on Human Rights and Security**

Paul Mabolia Yenga (PROMINES)

**Mineral Certification in Central Africa**

*12:30 Lunch*

**14:00 Roundtable Discussion: Prospects and Limits of Generalizations across Sectors**

Chair: Angeline Gough (FSC, Bonn)

**Gudrun Franken** (BGR Hannover)

**Kristin Komives** (ISEAL Alliance)

**Markus Wagner** (GIZ, ICGLR Bujumbura)

**Philipp Pattberg** (VU Amsterdam)

*15:30 End of Workshop*