

# Conference synthesis

Research and policy for sustainable  
development of natural resources in Africa

# Implications for Science, Technology and Policy in Africa

- Research challenge: increasing production, profitability
- **New type of science:** more integrative, interdisciplinary, focused on systems
- **Recognising** different types of 'useful' knowledge
- Networking with a range of partners

# Theme 2: Enhancing collaborative governance and management of the extractive industries

# Implications for Science, Technology and Policy in Africa

- Encourage transparency and reduce corruption in the sharing of mineral resources (state, NGOs)
- Governments should re-consider how to effectively participate in mining as a business partner and benefit from it and learn from countries like Botswana (state, researchers, companies, NGOs)
- Regulate and encourage small scale miners (state, researchers, NGOs)
- Make efforts to improve on the technical capacity of institutions within the framework of regional integration to facilitate the diffusion of knowledge and skills (state, researchers)
- Ensure coherence in the current process of mining reforms and harmonization in Africa (states, researchers, NGOs, Companies)
- Commitment to public disclosure of information, especially on environmental Audit reports (state, researchers, NGOs)
- Develop policies that encourage down stream processing (state, companies, researchers)
- Review mining laws and contracts to raise revenue (state, researchers, NGOs, companies)

Theme 3: Promoting green economy  
instrument for natural resources  
development, food security and poverty  
reduction

# Implications for Science, Technology and Policy in Africa

- Developing countries are asked to
  - Reorient current strategies in order to achieve long-term benefits
  - Undergo large-scale structural transformation
  - Risk hurting the poor and vulnerable populations
  - have trade-offs between green growth and existing development objectives
  - Make adjustment for complex political economy processes (short vs long term, winners vs losers)
- Experience of past structural adjustment initiatives cautions against ignoring trade-offs and political economy considerations
  - Implies an important role for foreign assistance in capacity building:
  - Facilitate transfer of green technologies and skills
  - Protect losers from adjustment costs
  - Limit political resistance to reforms
  - Finance higher development costs and consider the implications of de-prioritizing other development goals