



**THE SENATE
SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**Inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relationship with the countries of
Africa**

Public Hearing –Friday, 11 May 2018

Questions Taken on Notice

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Austrade

1 HANSARD, p. 45

CHAIR: ... For a post in, say, Kenya, would anybody have the operating budget for a post like that?

Ms Yu: When you say 'operating budget', what do you mean?

CHAIR: Well, how much does it cost?

Ms Yu: We can certainly provide you with the budgets that are allocated through the budget statement. I don't have them on me, but we can certainly get that for you.

Answer:

Nairobi Post's operating budget allocation in 2017-18 is \$3.394 million.

This amount excludes: (i) administered Overseas Development Assistance funding and (ii) funding for the Nairobi chancery relocation.

2 HANSARD, pp 49-50

Senator REYNOLDS: Is that something we could look to template for the next Africa Down Under, for example? The Kenyan ambassador today held up Base Resources specifically in terms of their projects in Kenya as a great example. We could use Africa Down Under as a way for DFAT, Austrade, the organisers and AAMEG to do something a bit different and, exactly as you said, to showcase one or many different really good practices that highlight the multiple opportunities that exist around all of our mining sites. Is that possible?

Ms Yu: Yes.

Ms Kamath: When you talk about a template, Senator—I don't know if this is along the lines of what you were thinking—the industry department has already developed, in consultation with the Minerals Council and the mining industry more broadly, a leading practice guideline for sustainable development for the mining industry. As far as I'm aware, that already exists as A guide to leading practice sustainable development in mining. I think what you're saying is to also go more broadly than that—to actually look at practical case studies where, in addition to mining activities, there's been community development activity around mine sites, for instance, such as the case of Base Resources. Is that right?

Senator REYNOLDS: I wasn't actually aware of that. I don't know whether the committee members have seen that. If you could give the details to the secretariat, we'll have a look at that.

Answer:

Details of the Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry can be found at:

<https://industry.gov.au/resource/Sustainable-mining/LPSD/Pages/default.aspx>

3 HANSARD, p. 50

CHAIR: How many countries in Africa would have a 'do not travel', or 'emergency only' advisory?

Ms Kamath: I'd have to take that on notice, but it would be a number.

Answer:

Eight countries are classified as *do not travel*: Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Libya, Mali, Niger, Somalia, and South Sudan.

Nine countries are classified as *reconsider your need to travel*: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mauritania, Nigeria, and Sudan.

Some countries may have different travel advice levels for specific areas or cities. All the information is publicly available on the Smartraveller.gov.au website.

4 HANSARD, p. 51

CHAIR: We've had evidence from two very innovative companies—one was Windlab and the other was Carnegie Clean Energy. They are both active in the region. Does Austrade have any particular interaction with those two operators?

Ms Bowen: I would have to double-check but, in my mind, they are familiar names—Windlab and Carnegie. I have seen them referred to in Austrade documentation, so I'm making a big leap and assuming that we have had contact with them and assisted them. But I can certainly take that on notice.

Answer:

Austrade has worked directly – and in conjunction with DFAT – to support the business activities of Windlab and Carnegie Clean Energy in Africa.

Austrade has engaged with Windlab in Africa primarily through their office in South Africa. Austrade has supported the company's interests in East Africa, including by introducing them to contacts in their key markets of Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia.

Carnegie Clean Energy commenced exploring business opportunities in Mauritius following a visit to the company's installations by the Executive Director of the Mauritius Research Council (MRC). Austrade worked with DFAT to support follow-up visits by Carnegie to Mauritius. An MOU was subsequently signed in 2015 between Carnegie and MRC for a project in Mauritius, co-funded by Carnegie and the Australian Government.

Senator REYNOLDS: I've got a question in relation to a trade issue. Is there any opportunity to have a trade mission that selects several of the better opportunities that you've identified across a range of industries and looks to have a trade delegation to several African countries? Have we ever done that? Are we thinking about doing it? Could we do it?

Ms Bowen: Are you aware of trade delegations to Africa?

Mr Harvey: Yes.

CHAIR: Perhaps we could tie this in with the African cooperation partnership agreement, which is being finalised now—is that an opportunity in that area?

Mr Harvey: To answer your question: yes, Austrade are very much working in collaboration with our colleagues in DFAT in post to support a range of missions, and some are sectorally specific. For example, through our office in Kenya we did support a delegation to Ethiopia which had mining, infrastructure and agribusiness. And we've actually just completed a series of Gourmet Australia in Africa events around several African countries.

Obviously, as has been discussed already about mining resources, Austrade takes the lead and works closely with DFAT and other players in terms of the annual mining Indaba. Thirty-two Australian companies registered for and participated in that, and we undertook business matching. It's important to emphasise that mining Indaba is not just a South African event—it is really the largest event in the region.

Another innovative thing we've done recently was to bring African buyers up to Gulfood, which is a major food and agribusiness show. We find that in utilising those types of events—where, obviously, they can come and talk to some other countries and suppliers—that there's already a very good and well-established Australian participation, including our peak agribusiness bodies as well as our gourmet and labelled food product manufacturers. We'll be able to supply you with a list of the delegations we have done—they're certainly something that we take forward.

Senator REYNOLDS: Yes—you could provide us with a list of the range of things that you've done.

Answer:

Austrade manages a range of missions and events to promote commercial ties with the countries of Africa. These activities are designed around key commercial opportunities that Austrade has identified as matching Australian capabilities.

Facilitating Australian engagement at Mining Indaba, the world's largest mining investment conference held annually in Cape Town in February, is Austrade's major promotional activity. The Australia Lounge – managed by Austrade – is the largest exhibition space at Mining Indaba. The Lounge showcases Australia's mining, equipment, technology and services (METS) sectors and complements our business development program. It also provides an opportunity for Australian companies to develop their in-market networks and contacts.

Twenty two Australian companies and six sponsors participated in Mining Indaba in 2018.

Other recent examples of business and education programs delivered or supported by Austrade include:

- Joint West Africa mining mission with Austmine (Ghana – October 17)
- Business mission to Ethiopia with the Ethiopian Government (Ethiopia – November 2017)
- Seamless Financial Services and Fintech program (Kenya – September 2017)
- Australian mining delegation to Mining Indaba (South Africa – February 2018)
- Australia Mauritius Research and Innovation Forum (Mauritius – February 2018)
- Australia Unlimited – Agribusiness, Food, and Mining showcase (Morocco – February 2018)
- West Africa Education Mission (Nigeria, Ghana – April 2018)
- ‘Gourmet Australia in Africa’ (Mauritius, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania – April 2018)

Upcoming events include:

- Australian Fintech mission (Kenya – September 2018)
- Gourmet Australia in Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia – November 2018)
- Australian mining delegation to Mining Indaba (South Africa – February 2019)